

STARS AND STRIPES®

Court strikes law shielding kids from Web porn

Page 11



DOD expected to call up Individual Ready Reserve

Page 6



Williams, Capriati set for marquee Wimbledon match

Page 30

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2004

3 Marines killed in post-handover attack

- Allawi: Saddam to appear in Iraqi court this week
- Iraqis take to the airwaves to applaud new government

Pages 3-4



Bush speech, street clashes wrap NATO summit

Page 7

Leftist demonstrators clash with Turkish riot police Tuesday during an anti-NATO protest in Istanbul, Turkey. Police fired tear gas into the group after some protesters threw rocks at officers. With a pledge for more troops in Afghanistan and possible help in Iraq, officials at the summit say the meeting of world leaders ended in a stronger relationship.

AP

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Olympic Park bombing: Georgia's Supreme Court ruled Monday that victims of the 1996 Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta, who claim inadequate security contributed to the tragedy, can continue with a lawsuit against the organizers of the games.

Justices upheld a state appeals court ruling, which found that the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games was not immune from liability under state law. The case now goes back to the trial court.

The victims are seeking compensation for their injuries, lost wages and pain and suffering. One woman was killed and more than 100 people were injured in the bombing on July 27, 1996.

Laci Peterson case: In a blistering cross-examination of the lead detective assigned to Laci Peterson's murder, the defense tried to show the case was shockingly executed and designed from the start to implicate her husband.

Defense lawyer Mark Geragos asked Detective Allen Brocchini about several tips police received that seemed to point away from Laci's husband, Scott Peterson. Geragos also probed a previous burglary of the Peterson home and mysterious men spotted in the neighborhood.

Geragos asked Brocchini about one tip received early in the investigation that Laci was being held in a storage bin about 30 miles from her hometown of Modesto, Calif. Brocchini said he knew of it, but did not have much information.

Peterson, 31, is accused of murdering his pregnant wife on or around Dec. 24, 2002, then sinking her body in San Francisco Bay.

Popcorn injury lawsuits: A jury ruled against four popcorn factory employees in the third of a series of lawsuits by workers who claim a butter flavoring caused disfiguring facial injuries.

Flavoring makers International Flavors and Fragrances Inc. and its subsidiary, Bush Boake Allen Inc., were not responsible for the injuries at the plant in Jasper, Mo., the jury ruled Monday. All four plaintiffs said they contracted a lung disease that obstructs the small airways.

Courtney Love hearing: Former Hole frontwoman Courtney Love reported more than five hours late to a Manhattan court appearance, and was scolded by a judge who said her lateness was grounds for arrest.

Love, 39, faces charges of assault and reckless endangerment for allegedly hitting a fan with a microphone stand at a show in New York's East Village in March. Her attorney said she was 5½ hours late for the 9:30 a.m. hearing because she didn't know she would be required to appear.



Love

World

Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Palestinian militants on Tuesday fired two waves of makeshift rockets into southern Israel, including a barrage that landed as Israeli



Porch collapse: Gill and Jeremy Farmer look at remembrance photos of their son, Sam, at their home in Winnetka, Ill., on Monday. Sam was one of 13 people who died one year ago in a porch collapse during a party in Chicago's upscale Lincoln Park neighborhood. In the year since the June 29 tragedy, city inspectors have cracked down on porch code violations and building ordinances have been tightened. But relatives of the victims say the city's inspectors haven't gone far enough to prevent another deadly collapse. Jeremy Farmer said some families have written letters to city officials pushing for more porch inspections and tougher penalties for building owners whose porches are not up to code.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was visiting the area.

The attacks came despite the launch of an Israeli offensive in the northern Gaza Strip meant to halt such attacks. One Israeli man was moderately wounded.

Balkan war crimes: A U.N. court sentenced Milan Babic, a central political figure during the Balkan wars, to 13 years in prison Tuesday for inflaming an ethnic cleansing campaign that killed thousands of Croats and expelled tens of thousands from Croatia.

The judgment, coming as the defense case of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is set to commence, sought to strike a balance between punishing the "savagery" of the crime and rewarding Babic's willingness to testify against his former political allies.

In January, the court convicted Babic, 48, formerly one of Milosevic's closest allies, of one count of persecution for the campaign against non-Serbs in the self-proclaimed Croatian Republic of Krajina. About 200 civilians were killed and 80,000 non-Serbs expelled during a seven-month campaign.

Kursk sinking: A Russian court in Moscow on Tuesday upheld a ruling against reopening a military investigation into the explosion and sinking of the Kursk nuclear submarine, in which 118 seamen were killed, Russian news agencies reported.

Russian lawyer Boris Kuznetsov, working on behalf of the families of 30 dead sailors, had demanded an investigation into Northern Fleet commanders in charge of the August 2000 military exercises in the Barents Sea and into the search and rescue operations following the disaster, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Military prosecutors closed the investigation in July 2002, saying a one was to

blame and no one could have been saved. They concluded most sailors had died immediately and that 23 people remained alive for eight hours — too little time to rescue them.

But Kuznetsov said the sailors were alive well beyond eight hours and that the military's slow response may have caused their deaths. He also says the sub and its crew were not prepared for the exercises.

South Korean hostage: A team of investigators left Seoul on Tuesday for the Middle East to look into the government's handling of the abduction of a South Korean who was beheaded in Iraq.

President Roh Moo-hyun last week ordered the state-run Board of Audit and Inspection to probe the circumstances surrounding the slaying of Kim Sun-il amid concerns that the government could have done more to secure his release.

Kim's employer first told South Korean authorities that Kim disappeared on June 17, but later said he went missing May 31 — nearly three weeks earlier.

Princess Diana fountain: After many delays, the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain flowed for the first time Tuesday in London, a week ahead of its official opening by Queen Elizabeth II.

Designers and builders of the \$6.4 million fountain, shaped like a water-filled sloping stone ring, watched as the fountain was filled. Visitors to the fountain in Hyde Park will be able to splash in the water or picnic inside or around the oval.

"The princess was a contemporary woman. I wanted very much it to be a place you walked into. A total environment — not an object you walked around," said Kathryn Gustafson, the American designer whose plan for the fountain beat 57 others.

Photos and stories from The Associated Press

Messages of Support

★ To our Heroes of the United States and Coalition forces. Thank you for enduring what you are on our behalf! Our Support, Prayers and Thoughts are with you constantly! We are immensely proud of you! You are our HEROES!!!!!! Never

forget you ARE fighting the GOOD FIGHT!!!!!! GOOD LUCK!!!!!! GOD BLESS!!!!!! COME HOME SOON!!!!!! Respectfully, Your ardent admirers, Mike and Debbie, Tulsa, Oklahoma

★ Please Lord, send comfort and peace to my brothers and sisters. At this time, they maybe feeling sorrow and loss. May the holy spirit refresh them with renewed hearts and minds. Grant them relief from their sorrows. Isaiah 61:1-11. In Jesus's name. I pray for deliverance, please ease their pain and suffering. Amen Renita

Bomb kills three U.S. Marines in Baghdad

Kidnapped Spc. Keith M. Maupin reportedly executed by militant captors

By TODD PITMAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A roadside bomb ripped through a U.S. military convoy in eastern Baghdad on Tuesday, killing three Marines and providing graphic evidence that the end of the U.S. occupation has not brought a halt to attacks on American forces.

The roadside blast in Baghdad's Rustamiyah district was the first face attack against U.S. troops since the formal end of the U.S.-run occupation Monday and the transfer of sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government.

Two Marines also were wounded in the blast, which occurred about 10 a.m. on a four-lane highway in the east of the capital.

Elsewhere, insurgents fired five mortar rounds Tuesday at a U.S. base near Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad. There were no American casualties, but five Iraqis were killed, Sgt. Wayne Marlow, a military spokesman, said.

In Baghdad, assailants fired on an American patrol Tuesday in the city's Azimiya district, once a stronghold of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party. There were no American casualties in the Azimiya incident, but the Iraqi Interior Ministry said one Iraqi civilian was killed.

Despite the end of the occupation, about 160,000 foreign troops — most of them Americans — remain in Iraq to provide security and train Iraq's new security service.

U.S. officials had warned that the transfer of sovereignty would not stop the anti-American insurgency right away. However, officials hope that in time, Iraqis will accept that they are in charge of their own country and the attacks will gradually subside.

Also Tuesday, one police officer and one civilian were killed when assailants attacked a police station in Mahmudiya 20 miles

south of Baghdad. Witnesses said gunmen recited verses from the Quran before the attack.

A roadside bomb exploded Tuesday in the northern oil center of Kirkuk as a Kurdish district police chief was heading to work, officials said. The police chief and two others were wounded and his bodyguard was killed, police said.

In Baghdad, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi told his first news conference since the sovereignty transfer that the Iraqi Cabinet was discussing unspecified emergency measures to cope with the security crisis and he would announce details later this week.

Iraqi media have speculated that those measures could include curfews and curbs on public demonstrations — at least in specific areas of the country where the insurgency is active. Most of those areas are dominated by Sunni Muslim Arabs. Allawi and most of his Cabinet are Shiites.

Meanwhile, another Iraqi extremist group freed three Turkish hostages, Turkey's Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said. Al-Jazeera reported that the group was releasing the hostages "for the sake of their Muslim brothers."

"Our citizens have been released," Gul told state television. "We've struggled a lot for their release."

Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whose followers killed American Nicholas Berg last month and South Korean Kim Sun-II last week, claimed to have abducted the three Turks.

Another militant group announced that it had killed Spc. Keith M. Maupin, 20, of Batavia, Ohio, because the United States had not changed its policy in Iraq. A videotape aired by Al-Jazeera television showed a blindfolded man identified by his captors as Maupin sitting on the ground.

Al-Jazeera said that in the next scene, gunmen shoot in the man in the back of the head, in front of a



AP photos

Above: Hassan Obaid reels from the heat of a crude oil pipeline that local residents said was sabotaged by explosives earlier in the day Tuesday in Yousfiya on the southern outskirts of Baghdad. Below: Kidnapped American soldier Spc. Keith M. Maupin, of Batavia, Ohio, is seen in this image made from video broadcast by Al-Jazeera on April 16. Al-Jazeera television said Tuesday that Iraqi militants have killed Maupin because the U.S. government did not change its policy in Iraq.

hole dug in the ground. The station did not broadcast the killing.

The U.S. military said it could not immediately confirm whether the man shown in the murky videotape was indeed Maupin. Maj. Willie Harris, spokesman for the Army's 88th Regional Readiness Command, said the videotape is being analyzed by the Defense Department.

Another U.S. servicemember, Marine Cpl. Wasef Ali Hassan, also was reported kidnapped in a tape sent to Al-Jazeera.



U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, 850 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 629 died as a result of hostile action and 221 died of non-hostile causes. The department did not provide an update over the weekend.

The British military has reported 59 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands

have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 712 U.S. servicemen have died — 520 as a result of hostile action and 192 of non-hostile causes, according to the military as of Monday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Manuel A. Ceniceros, 23, Santa Ana, Calif., died Saturday in an attack in Anbar province, assigned to

Headquarters Company, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Army Spc. Jeremy M. Heinert, 25, New Orleans; killed Saturday in Baghdad in an attack on his patrol; assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas.

signed to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Manuel A. Ceniceros, 23, Santa Ana, Calif., died Saturday in an attack in Anbar province, assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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More Iraq funds spent on reconstruction than U.S.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States spent more of Iraq's money than its own in the first year of reconstruction, according to a new congressional report.

The report, made public Tuesday, shows that \$8.3 billion of Iraqi money and \$3 billion of American funds have been spent.

As of April, about \$58 billion in grants, loans, Iraqi assets and revenues has been made available or pledged to reconstruction and relief efforts in post-Saddam Iraq, the General Accounting Office said in the report.

That includes \$24 billion in U.S. funds, \$13.6 billion in international pledges and \$21 billion largely from sales of Iraqi oil and assets of the former regime that had been frozen or seized by various nations.

Of the \$24 billion in American funds, the occupation authority signed contracts and obligated \$8.2 billion and actually disbursed \$3 billion, the GAO report said.

Of the \$21 billion in Iraqi money, authorities made commitments for \$13 billion and actually spent \$8.3 billion, it said.

Saddam soon to face charges in Iraqi court

BY NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Saddam Hussein will be transferred to Iraqi legal custody and face charges in an Iraqi court this week — but he won't go on trial for months and he will stay in a U.S.-run jail because the country doesn't have a suitable prison, the prime minister said Tuesday.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi promised an open proceeding when Saddam faces war crimes charges, including genocide.

Eleven other "high-value detainees" also are expected to face justice, he said at his first news conference since the U.S.-led coalition handed over sovereignty to his government Monday.

"I know I speak for my fellow countrymen when I say I look forward to the day former regime leaders face justice," he said.

Saddam will be transferred to Iraqi legal custody Wednesday and face arraignment before an Iraqi judge Thursday, Allawi said.

Within hours, Iraqi authorities announced arrest warrants for Saddam and the 11 others, including former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

The list also includes Ali Hassan al-Majid, also known as

"Chemical Ali"; former Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan; and two of Saddam's half-brothers, according to the head of the Iraqi Special Tribunal, Sami Chalabi.

Allawi was asked whether his Cabinet had finalized plans for emergency rule as he had been proposed publicly by a number of officials since the interim administration was announced June 1.

"We will tell you about those procedures later — maybe tomorrow or the day after tomorrow," he said. "We will tell you about those procedures that were adopted by the Cabinet."

Government officials have not spelled out what measures might be imposed. However, Iraqi media have speculated they might include special rules for searches, detentions and curfews in specific areas of the country where insurgent activity is strong.

On the streets of Baghdad, several Iraqis said they were hoping to hear that Saddam would have Iraqi justice, but they urged the court to treat him fairly.

"I hope that he will get a fair trial and not be executed because the people have suffered a lot because of him," said Ahmad Chalub. "I want him to get a life sentence."

Another man, Basil al-Timimi,



Iraq Prime Minister Iyad Allawi

said Arabs would accept the verdict if the trial takes place in an Iraqi court.

"The main objections of Arab countries about the arrest of Saddam Hussein was that he was arrested by Americans, and not Iraqi people," al-Timimi said. "Now he will be tried in an Iraqi court and he will face Iraqi justice. I don't think it's so complicated to make a judgment on him."

He said he was sure Saddam would face execution.

Arrest, detention warrants

The Associated Press

The Iraqi Special Tribunal has announced arrest and detention warrants for 12 prominent figures already in U.S. custody.

1. Saddam Hussein; president, detained Dec. 13

2. Ali Hasan al-Majid, also known as Chemical Ali for his role in chemical weapons attacks against the Kurds; No. 5 on the most wanted list; detained Aug. 21

3. Aziz Saleh al-Numan; Baath Party Baghdad regional command chairman; No. 8 on the most wanted list; detained May 22, 2003.

4. Barzan Ibrahim al-Hasan al-Tikriti; presidential adviser and Saddam's half brother; No. 38 on the most wanted list; allegedly the chief organizer of a clandestine group of companies and funds handling Saddam's money; detained April 16, 2003.

5. Kamal Mustafa Abdullah al-Tikriti; secretary of the Republican Guard; Saddam's son-in-law; No. 10 on the most wanted list; detained May 17, 2003.

6. Muhammad Hamza

al-Zubaydi; retired revolutionary command council member; a leader of the 1991 suppression of the Shiite rebellion; No. 9 on the most wanted list; detained April 20, 2003.

7. Sabir Abdul Aziz Al-Douri; governor of Baghdad; head of military intelligence during the 1991 Gulf War; detention date not known.

8. Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti; presidential secretary; he oversaw personal security force; detained June 16, 2003.

9. Sultan Hashim Ahmad; defense minister; No. 27 on the most wanted list; detained Sept. 19.

10. Taha Yassin Ramadan; Iraqi vice president; revolutionary command council member; No. 20 on the most wanted list; detained Aug. 20

11. Tariq Aziz; former deputy prime minister; former foreign minister; No. 25 on the most wanted list; detained April 25, 2003.

12. Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan al-Tikriti; presidential adviser and Saddam's half brother; detained April 13, 2003

Iraq talk radio callers Welcome, enticed by fringe incoming government

BY TAREK EL-TABLAUWY
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi voices filled the airwaves of the nation's first independent talk radio station Monday, applauding a surprise move by the U.S.-led coalition to return sovereignty to Iraq two days early.

The callers clogged Radio Dija's telephone lines to congratulate interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, urging him to be strong, while warning insurgents against continued violence.

"I send my congratulations to all Iraqis and every Iraqi home," a woman who identified herself as Um Yassin gushed, her voice choked with emotion. "I want to tell Dr. Allawi to be bold, to be strong. We need him to build up the army because we need them at a time like this."

Her message was echoed by dozens on the day Prime Minister Allawi was given a letter transferring sovereignty back to the citizens of Iraq after about 14 months of coalition administration.

But in the midst of adulation for the new government, callers urged that all must be vigilant for insurgents seeking to sow more chaos in a country plagued by violence since Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled.

"I send all the Iraqi people my blessings," said Ali, a caller from Baghdad. "But I warn these ter-

rorists, all the Iraqis will rise up and strike them with steel."

With that threat, the station switched to an upbeat song by a Lebanese singer. "People have been calling in all day, sending their greetings to the new government," said Ahmed al-Rikabi, who founded Radio Dija about two months after working for years with broadcasters in Europe. "There is a feeling of joy among the listeners. But they are also expressing hope that the day will pass with no problems and no explosions."

"But we've also had calls from people pleading with the terrorists to let Iraqis live this day in peace."

Until well into the afternoon, the car bombings, insurgent attacks on police and government buildings and coalition forces that have become synonymous with daily life in post-Saddam Iraq were conspicuously absent. But the memory of past attacks were still fresh in listeners' memories.

On Baghdad FM, another channel that also attracts callers as well as music, Um Ali, a woman from Hilla, recalled the twin car bombings that struck the heart of her city Saturday night. The insurgents seeking to sow more chaos in a country plagued by violence since Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled.

"We need nothing short of murder," she said. "Nobody wants any more incidents like this."



U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte, left, meets with Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer in Baghdad on Tuesday. Ambassadors from the United States, Australia and Denmark presented credentials to al-Yawer, marking the restoration of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the three coalition countries.

U.S. formally renews diplomatic relations

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Ambassadors from the United States, Australia and Denmark presented credentials to President Ghazi al-Yawer on Tuesday, marking the restoration of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the three coalition countries.

The United States has had no diplomatic relations with Iraq since 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte, Australian Ambassador Neil Mules and Danish Ambassador Torben Gettermann presented credentials separate-

ly during a ceremony in an interim government buildings in the heavily-guarded Green Zone.

All three countries maintain troops in Iraq. "Yesterday's restoration of full sovereignty to Iraq cleared the way for establishment of normal diplomatic relations between two free, independent nations," Negroponte said in a statement.

"I brought President al-Yawer President Bush's greetings and shared with him the guidance President Bush has given me," the statement said.

The ceremonies, attended by Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zehabi, marked the first official event organized by the new government.

Night patrol moves with stealth through Iraq

By CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

FALLUJAH, Iraq — The platoon rolled out of Camp Baharia and onto the highway.

In a place where troops face situations that require them to kill or be killed, the mood changes when the sun goes down. So do the tactics.

"During the day, it's a lot easier to see the enemy," said Lance Cpl. Samuel Herzberg of Norman, Okla., and Company D, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. "But at night we've got night vision and thermal vision. We see them before they see us."

"That's how we tear them up." The five Light Armored Vehicles rolled north on Route 1 into a red sunset. Children in an adjacent neighborhood played soccer while adults stood nearby in small groups. Because it's 110 degrees or more in the afternoon, Iraqis often wait until dusk to come outside. That goes for the enemy as well.

The patrol moved ahead with lights out, even on darkened roads. Drivers used night-vision gear to make their way.

"We're a little more stealth and it's harder for the enemy to see us," said Sgt. Alfonso Nava of Dallas. "On the other hand, it can be more dangerous. You can't see IEDs [improvised explosive devices] like you can during the day."



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Marine 1st Lt. Knox Nunnally, left, with sunglasses, of Company D, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, addresses his platoon at Camp Fallujah, Iraq, before it headed out on a recent night patrol.

In a way, the Marines can see more at night because the tracers of gunfire and blast of rockets stand out in the darkness. The rocky landscape appears dark green through night-vision goggles and appears similar to the surface of the moon.

The patrol pulled off the highway several times and parked in adjacent fields. The eight-wheeled LAVs looked like

black silhouettes as they sat parked. The Marines inside watched as convoys rolled by. The trucks were not fired upon.

The troops can hear more at night, too, in the still of night when every little sound stands out.

"At the same time we have to be quiet, too," said Lance Cpl. Jorge Duarte of Graham, N.C. "Every little sound can give away your position."

Explosions are easily heard in the distance. A tiny, unmanned spy plane buzzed overhead, sounding like a giant mosquito.

The Marines, when asked to talk about the difference between day and night patrols, pointed to the differences as they pertain to warfare.

"At night, you shoot at silhouettes and muzzle flashes," Duarte said. "During the day you can ac-

tually see another human being. You see him drop to the ground and know if you got him or not."

But they also acknowledged that the nighttime weather made for more tolerable working conditions.

Said one Marine: "[After a day-time patrol] you sleep for like 10 hours and could sleep for a couple more because the sun just drains you."

As usual in central Iraq, where months can pass without a single cloud appearing, the night sky was clear and the stars were brilliant. Through night-vision goggles they are even more spectacular, a real life planetarium.

For all the fire, smoke and destruction that mark the Iraqi landscape during the day, working the night patrol can provide the Marines with a pleasant reprieve. When they park their vehicles in a field and watch the highway, and 18-wheelers pass by without incident, the Marines can relax under the stars.

And they talk about women and beer and barbecues.

"It's a lot easier to relax at night," Herzberg said. "Every time you look up and see the stars, it's like, 'Man, I'm not always going to be over here.' It brings back a lot of memories."

"Then you hear a little twig snap and you're back on your toes."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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Stars and Stripes reporter Terry Boyd speaks with Servicemembers from Triple Deuce at Firebase Purgatory.

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From left to right, Sgt. Wesley Parkhurst, Spec. Robert Isaacs, Terry Boyd, and Pfc. Michael Greenwood.

Army expands R&R travel reimbursement

Soldiers who left Middle East war zone last fall can file for refunds

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Army will retroactively reimburse troops who paid their own way in the early days of the Rest and Recuperation program from the Middle East war zone.

An estimated 32,000 servicemembers who paid out of pocket for airline tickets between September and December on Central Command's R&R program now can begin filing for full refunds, said Lt. Col. Bobbie Sanders, deputy chief of the R&R Task Force.

The Army's Well-Being Office, which has responsibility over the R&R program, received final approval June 21 to begin reimbursing troops who paid for airline tickets to their final leave destination between Sept. 25, when the program started, and

Dec. 19, when the Army got the go-ahead from the Pentagon to pick up the tab.

However, until Jan. 1, troops still had to pay upfront for their tickets and seek reimbursement from the Army.

The Army has been reimbursing those troops, Sanders said.

Tuesday, the Army announced it would begin reimbursing troops who paid for tickets between September and December, at an estimated cost of \$13 million to \$19 million, she said.

To get reimbursed, troops have to file DD Form 1351-2, downloadable from the Defense Finance and Accounting System Web site at www.dfas.mil/money/travel/forms.htm. Financial officers downrange also have the forms.

Accompanying that form must be copies of leave documentation, which vary per service, but which also are available online at that site.

Officials also would like participants to submit a copy of the airline ticket or airline ticket receipt if available.

Those who no longer have the documentation can still file for reimbursement by filing DD Form 1351-2 and including their name, Social Security number, leave dates, airline flown, final destination airport and cost of ticket.

For those who do not remember the cost of the airline ticket, they must contact Al-Shamel, the ticket agent within CENTCOM, or the airline itself to get copies of receipts. There might be a fee for that service.

Then, all documentation must be sent to: DFAS-IN
Contingency Travel Operations
Department 3900
ATTN: R&R Leave
8899 East 56th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46249-3900

It will take about four weeks to process the paperwork and mail out checks.

Under federal law, survivors of troops who took the leave and paid the bill can file for reimbursement, said Sheila Melton, an accountant with DFAS.

The executor or beneficiary must file the forms and documentation, she said.

Troops will be notified of the program by messages on their Leave and Earnings Statements, through the Army Knowledge Online e-mail system, and from messages the Army plans to send to those whom they know traveled home during that time period, Sanders said.

Troops have up to six years from when they leave the service to file for reimbursement.

Questions can be e-mailed to: DFAS-IN@RLA@DFAS.MIL
E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

5,600 inactive Army reservists to be called up

Post-9/11 declaration of emergency authorizes DOD to order up to 1 million back to active duty

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — For the first time since the Gulf War, the Army is preparing for the involuntary activation of at least 5,600 soldiers who have long since hung up their uniforms, Pentagon and Army officials said Tuesday.

The Bush administration has mobilized thousands of reservists since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

But this call-up, to be announced as early as Wednesday, involves troops from the Individual Ready Reserves, or IRR — servicemembers who have left active duty or active reserve service but still have time left on their obligation to serve (see box).

President Bush cleared the way for the Pentagon to use the IRR when he issued a Declaration of National Emergency after Sept. 11.

The declaration allows the government to order to active duty up to 1 million members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, and Inactive National Guard without their consent, for a period not to exceed 24 consecutive months.

All of the services have inactive components, but the pending call-up will involve only Army troops, a Pentagon official said Tuesday.

Since early May, the Army has been prescreening its entire IRR force of about 117,400 troops to determine who may be eligible to deploy, Army personnel officials have said.

About 2,100 IRR soldiers already have been activated, but those have been volunteers, Maj. Gen. Franklin L. "Buster" Hagenbeck, the Army's chief for personnel matters, told reporters June 2.

The IRR soldiers who get tapped in the upcoming round of activations likely will be given 30 days' notice that they will be moved from the IRR/ING category to Selected Reserve, the official said.

Many of the activated reservists will be shifted to drilling units within the Selected Reserve and either eventually deploy to Iraq or stay stateside to fill gaps left by other deploying soldiers, the Pentagon official said.

Some of the IRR soldiers may be sent directly to Iraq or Afghanistan to fill specific slots, the Pentagon official said.

The inactive reserves were first called up for the Korean War, when the U.S. government turned to about 160,000 veterans of World War II.

The IRR was used again during the Gulf War.

Sandra Jontz contributed to this report from the Pentagon.
E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil
E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

How the Army Reserve works

The Army Reserve is three groups: the Selected Reserve, the Individual Ready Reserve and the Retired Reserve. There are more than 1 million Army Reserve soldiers.

The Selected Reserve is the group of Army Reserve soldiers most readily available to the President. The Selected Reserve comprises Troop Program Units (TPUs), Active Guard Reserve (AGR) soldiers and Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs).

■ Troop Program Units

The Army Reserve is authorized to have more than 185,000 soldiers in more than 2,000 TPUs. These men and women typically train on selected weekends and perform annual training.

■ Active Guard Reserve

AGR soldiers serve full time on active duty in units and organizations of the Army Reserve or that directly support the Army Reserve.

■ Individual Mobilization Augmentees

The Army Reserve's IMAs are assigned to high-level headquarters where they would serve if mobilized. Most IMAs train annually for two weeks.

The Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) are soldiers who may be called upon, if needed, to replace soldiers in active and reserve units. Many in the IRR have left active duty recently and still have a reserve commitment. Others have chosen to remain active as Army Reserve soldiers, but not as a unit member or IMAs. There are about 163,000 members of the IRR.

The Retired Reserve consists of approximately 715,000 retirees from the Army (Active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard).

Source: The Army Reserve

New tracking system will help GIs get supplies in Iraq

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — A new tracking system is helping soldiers in Iraq get the supplies they need quickly, while minimizing the need for moving supplies around via convoys, an Army official said Tuesday.

The Combat Service Support Very Small Aperture Terminal, or CSS-VSAT, a satellite communications system, is a break-

through for Army logisticians, Lt. Gen. Claude "Chris" Christianson, deputy Chief of Staff for Army Logistics, told reporters in Washington.

The system, which includes a portable, 4-foot satellite dish and the associated electronics plugged into existing computers, "is something I've been waiting for [for] 30 years," Christianson said.

Army officials were not able to get the CSS-VSAT into Iraq in

time for the initial incursion, which put Army units at a disadvantage, Christianson said.

For example, in mid-March 2003, the 3rd Infantry Division was each day sending 15,000 to 18,000 supply requisitions back to the United States from Kuwait, he said.

But by March 21, when the unit was over the berm into Iraq, those requisitions "were down almost to zero," Christianson said — not because the soldiers didn't

need more supplies, but because they couldn't take the time to stop and connect their communications equipment.

In early May 2003, first-generation versions of the CSS-VSAT began appearing in the theater, Christianson said.

"Today, all the remote points are connected," Christianson said, with satellite systems in place at the Army's major supply centers throughout Iraq.

When the 3rd ID goes back to

Iraq later this year, it will be equipped with a new, smaller version of the dish that will automatically lock onto its satellite, instead of requiring continual readjustments, Christianson said.

Other Army divisions will get the newest systems over the next six years as they modernize, he said.

Meanwhile, the older systems are slated to remain in Iraq, passing from unit to unit as they rotate, Christianson said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

NATO still an effective alliance, Bush says

President closes summit with optimism for future

BY WARD SANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Despite an airport bombing and demonstrators clashing with police outside the Istanbul Summit, officials maintain the meetings of world leaders who pledged more troops for Afghanistan and possible help for Iraq ended in a steeled partnership.

"Some on both sides of the Atlantic have questioned whether the NATO alliance still has a great purpose," President Bush said in a Tuesday speech.

"To find that purpose, they only need to open their eyes. The dangers are in plain sight. The only question is whether we will confront them, or look away and pay a terrible cost."

"Over the last few years, NATO has made its decision. Our alliance is restructuring to oppose threats that arise beyond the borders of Europe."

Bush then praised NATO for its decisions on Afghanistan and Iraq. But to forge those deals, leaders had to hammer out diplomatic details. Germany and France foiled Bush's plans to deploy NATO peacekeepers to Iraq. And Bush and French Pres-

ident Jacques Chirac sparred on the fringe topic of Turkey's bid to join the European Union.

On Monday, NATO vowed to commit 10,000 troops to Afghanistan, up from the current 6,500, to secure September elections. A senior NATO official, however, said Tuesday that many would not be based inside Afghanistan but would be prepared to deploy there in case of a crisis.

The offer to train Iraqi security forces was more ambiguous. Germany and France refused to deploy there. The alliance compromised, agreeing finally that it was "possible" for it to train Iraqi security forces inside or outside the country.

On Tuesday, Afghan President Hamid Karzai met with NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, asking how the alliance would meet its commitment to send more troops, install four new provincial reconstruction teams in the north and eventually move into the west. Karzai said the Afghans wanted NATO on the ground, and they wanted to vote.

"The key is to have enough voters, and we're confident we will have 6 million registered vot-



President Bush speaks Tuesday at Galatasaray University in Istanbul, Turkey. Bush, standing at the historic Bosphorus waterway that has long linked Europe and Asia, defended his push for Middle East democracy. In the background is Ortakoy Mosque.

ers," Karzai said, according to the NATO official. In some districts of Afghanistan, the official maintained, more women have

registered to vote than men — something undreamed of during the Taliban era.

Karzai also asked for the protection of ballot boxes. The alliance maintains that whatever help it gives, Afghan authorities will remain in charge of security.

Karzai later asked for immediate troop increases from the leaders of the 46 countries that make up the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council — NATO plus 20 other countries — that cooperate on missions, disaster response and exercises.

The alliance also disclosed Tuesday more about its agreement to pursue talks with the Middle East. The talks would most likely start with nations of the Gulf region, the senior NATO official said.

On Monday, de Hoop Scheffer characterized the initiative as merely an invitation to exchange ideas.

In his speech Tuesday, however, Bush implied it meant more. "In Istanbul, we have dedicated ourselves to the advance of reform in the broader Middle East," Bush said, "because all people deserve a just government, and because terror is not the tool of the free."

The senior alliance official, though, later denied that the initiative implies coercion.

"NATO is not asking any Middle Eastern countries for reforms," he said. "It's only a dialogue."

He also denied recent meetings with Israel implied undue influence over the initiative, saying that the alliance similarly meets with nations in North Africa and Jordan.

Bush also caused a stir over Turkey, a secular democracy with a predominantly Muslim population.

"America believes that as a European power, Turkey belongs in the European Union," Bush said. "Your membership would also be a crucial advance in relations between the Muslim world and the West, because you are part of both. Including Turkey in the EU would prove that Europe is not the exclusive club of a single religion, and it would expose the 'clash of civilizations' as a passing myth of history."

On Monday, Chirac criticized Bush's position — with CNN quoting Chirac as saying it was not Bush's place to offer EU advice.

"In this area, it was a bit as if I were to tell Americans how they should handle their relationship with Mexico," Chirac said.

More severe than verbal sparring were news reports of a booby-trapped package or wallet that exploded inside a plane at Istanbul's airport, causing a cleaner to lose a finger Tuesday. Passengers already had left the aircraft.

Also Tuesday, police clashed with anti-NATO protesters near the summit area, dousing the gathered mob with tear gas, reports said.

A large part of the city around the summit compound was blocked off to all but official traffic.

The summit itself was held inside a military museum.

E-mail Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.eastripes.osd.mil

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Gun club reopens for dining, dancing

Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — After about a year's renovation, Baumholder's Red and Gun Club has been transformed into Shooters, a dining-and-dancing club.

The facility, on the southeast edge of I.D. Smith Barracks, opened as Shooters on Friday.

It will still serve lunch and dinner, but the emphasis will be on having a club for families and single soldiers closer to the base facilities. Lt. Col. Todd Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, said earlier this year.

The Shooters project added a new winter garden; the ballroom and front dining area have been renovated.

Other changes include new interior walls and ceilings, furnishings, a fog machine for the dance area and ventilation equipment for smoking areas, according to a news release.

"More funds are coming to do a lot more in this community ... we're not done yet. We've just started," Buchs said in a BSB news release.

Shooters serves lunch Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Dinner is served Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4:30 to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 4:30 to 10 p.m.; and Sunday 5 to 9 p.m.

Breakfast is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

For details, call Shooters manager Mary Jane Spreier at DSN 485-6345.

Finally going home



JOSEPH GIORDANO/Stars and Stripes

A.U.S. and South Korean color guard transports a set of remains during a repatriation ceremony last month at Yongsan Garrison, South Korea. A similar ceremony is scheduled for Thursday at Yongsan's Knight Field for remains believed to be those of a 7th Infantry Division soldier who died during fighting with Chinese forces at the Chosin Reservoir. A brutal campaign there between November and December 1950 claimed an estimated 1,000 U.S. soldiers.

because it was time to begin his transition out of the military.

Thursday's ceremony will be conducted in the same fashion as ceremonies for humans who leave the military, Dion said, including the posting of the flags, the playing of the national anthem and a reading of Rex's biography.

The ceremony also will feature a change of duty between Rex and his replacement, Elra.

Elra will be given Rex's badge, signifying that Rex's military service officially is complete.

Elra is a 2-year-old Belgian Malinois who came to Yokota in March and will be one of seven dogs assigned to the security squadron.

Dion will be Rex's handler for the ceremony. Elra's handler is Staff Sgt. Matthew Claxton. The ceremony is to take place at 2:30 p.m. at the Yokota Base Theater.

Once retired, Rex will remain in Japan in his new role as house pet, thanks to a Yokota family who has adopted him, LeBlanc said.

E-mail Megan Mouch at: mouchm@stripes.osd.mil

Gas: Up or down?

AAFES will hold off on changes until after the holiday weekend

BY LISA HORN

Stars and Stripes

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service gas prices for the month of July will not go into effect until Tuesday, five days later than normal, according to an AAFES spokesman.

"It's not something we normally do," spokesman Maj. Dave Accetta said.

"We're just shifting the four-week period to get the price to where it will hopefully be going down."

Gas prices are normally effective the first day of each month and are announced a few days earlier.

July's prices should be released on Wednesday.

Using information from the Department of Energy and a four-week average of statewide gas prices, AAFES calculates prices for gas prices monthly for its customers stationed in Britain, Germany and the Netherlands.

The price is good for gas sold at AAFES-run service stations

and for fuel coupons that can be used at designated stations on the economy.

Statewide gas prices have been dropping since May 26, when regular gasoline peaked at \$2.06 a gallon.

According to the AAA automobile club, the average cost of regular gasoline in the United States on Tuesday was \$1.91 a gallon.

"We're just shifting the four-week period to get the price to where it will hopefully be going down."

Maj. Dave Accetta
AAFES spokesman

The price of premium was \$2.11. In late June 2003, a gallon of regular gasoline was \$1.49 in the States.

AAFES hopes to capitalize on the trend of decreasing costs at the pump by delaying the averaging process and its effective date for new gas prices, Accetta said.

"If AAFES used the current four-week average, gas prices in Germany, Britain and the Netherlands, would go up around 10 cents a gallon," he said.

Based on a fixed one-year contract, fuel prices in the Arab and Turkey remain unchanged.

E-mail Lisa Horn at: hornl@mail.stripes.osd.mil

DODDS students headed to leadership conferences

Stars and Stripes

Two Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Germany will be attending leadership conferences this summer.

Katheryn Dickmeyer, who will be a senior at Patch High School in Stuttgart, Germany, next year, left Monday for the People to People's Future Leaders Summit on Law, Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The conference ends July 9.

Dickmeyer will meet senators, visit the Virginia District Court and will participate in a service project. She is the only DODDS student attending the conference.

She is the daughter of Gary and Claire Dickmeyer. Throughout the 2003-2004 school year, she maintained at 4.0 grade point average and served as junior class president. She is attending the conference on a full scholarship based on her leadership roles and

academic performance. Steven K. Leist, who will be a senior at Kaiserslautern High School next year, will attend the Global Young Leaders Conference July 25-Aug. 5 in Washington, D.C., and New York City.

Leist, son of Ray and Elaine A. Leist, was selected based on his academics and leadership activities. He has been involved in Model United Nations for the past three years and finished his junior year with a 3.76 grade point average.

Messages of Support

★ My salutes to all at the USS Kitty Hawk and all the members of the military who are out there fighting for what we believe. We support you and are praying for your safe returns. Special salute to my nephew Martin who is aboard the USS Kitty Hawk. We all miss you and are VERY PROUD of you. God is watching over you. Love you! Tia Martha

Time for a change of canine

Rex, a military working dog, retires after 12 years with AF in Japan

BY MEGAN MOUCH

Stars and Stripes

Spending 12 years working in Air Force security was a dog's life but at least when Rex relinquishes his badge Thursday, he's to get full military honors.

Not to mention a cushy retirement job as a family pet.

Rex, a military working dog, is to be given an official retirement ceremony at Yokota Air Base in Japan.

A Belgian Malinois, he was born in 1992 and started his training in 1994 as a narcotics detector dog. He arrived at Yokota in March 1995 to work for the 374th Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog Section.

And he became the first certified dog in the Pacific region to detect the drug Ecstasy, said Tech. Sgt. Jean LeBlanc, who works in the squadron.

Gerald Dion, the most recent one rotated out of Yokota more than a year ago.

Rex was not assigned another handler after that

Thursday's ceremony will include the posting of the flags, the playing of the national anthem and a reading of Rex's biography.

IN THE WORLD

Portuguese leader tapped for EU's top job

BY JOCELYN GECKER
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union leaders on Tuesday formally named Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Durao Barroso to serve as the next European Commission President, diplomats said.

The appointment ended an acrimonious debate over the best candidate for the EU's top job.

Durao Barroso, 48, is to succeed Italy's Romano Prodi, the current commission president.

His selection ended weeks of deadlock and haggling that again highlighted divisions over the



Barroso

er Solana, the EU's foreign and security affairs chief, for another five years.

Solana, a former NATO Secretary General, is to become the EU's foreign minister under an EU Constitution that the EU lead-

ers adopted this month.

The charter now must be ratified by each EU nation's legislature or in a referendum.

Durao Barroso, who has led a conservative coalition government in Portugal since 2002, was picked after nearly a dozen other candidates were rejected.

A supporter of the Iraq war and a backer of greater EU integration, Durao Barroso was seen as a compromise candidate to appease the clashing views of France and Germany on one side and Britain on the other.

Durao Barroso vowed to help "build a stronger European Union, fairer and more united, more active in

the international field."

The European Commission runs the EU's day-to-day affairs, drafting EU law, ensuring it is enacted in each of the member states, and representing the union in world trade and other negotiations.

Before flying to Brussels from a NATO summit in Istanbul, Turkey, French President Jacques Chirac said he would "vote for him with pleasure," praising Durao Barroso for speaking "perfect French." He is also fluent in Spanish and English.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said Durao Barroso's appointment "makes sense for Eu-

rope."

A supporter of the Iraq war and a backer of greater EU integration, he was seen as a compromise candidate to appease the clashing views of France and Germany on one side and Britain on the other.

Debate at a June 17-18 European summit grew so toxic that Chirac halted the discussion and said he would continue his consultations.

Durao Barroso faces confirmation hearings in European Parliament in July, seen as a formality because he shares the same center-right views as the EU assembly's largest political group, the European People's Party.

U.N. helicopter crashes

Officials say all 24 passengers killed in Sierra Leone

BY CLARENCE
ROY-MACAULAY
The Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — A U.N. helicopter crashed on a remote hillside in Sierra Leone on Tuesday, killing all 24 peacekeepers, aid workers and others aboard, a U.N. spokeswoman in the West African nation said.

Victims aboard the Russian-made Mi-8 also included the Russian crew, U.N. mission

spokeswoman Sharon McPherson said. There was no word on the nationality of the others killed.

A passenger manifest made available to The Associated Press said the passengers included 14 Pakistani peacekeepers and a Pakistani police officer.

Others on the manifest were a U.N. volunteer from Ghana, three Sierra Leone citizens, a Tanzanian national working for the International Red Cross and one Ugandan.

Passenger manifests in Africa frequently are incomplete and incorrect, and there was no confirmation of whether the manifest was correct for the flight.

Authorities offered no immediate theories on the cause of the accident, which left the wreckage in flames on a hill, U.N. officials said.

The United Nations has about 11,800 peacekeepers in Sierra Leone, overseeing the country's peace accord after a vicious 1991-2002 civil war.

Fighting stopped by 2002, and there have been no known attacks on U.N. officials since.

The helicopter had taken off from Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital, with 21 passengers and three crew, said Daniel Adekera, another U.N. spokesman.

Passengers included peacekeepers and other U.N. personnel and aid workers and other civilians, Adekera said.

Its ultimate destination was the western city of Kailahun. Ground crew lost radio contact, and sent out a search crew within seven minutes, Adekera said.

The chopper had crashed just southeast of the town of Yengema, near some of the main diamond fields in mineral-rich Sierra Leone, U.N. and Sierra Leone aviation officials said.

The wreckage and victims were in remote, hard-to-reach bush area.

U.N. recovery teams had to go by a second helicopter to reach the hills where the helicopter went down, Marie Okabe said in New York.

Rescuers spotted the wreckage, still in flames more than an hour later, from the air, U.N. officials said.

They found no survivors after reaching the crash site.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's office said the United Nations had opened an investigation into the

"The secretary-general extends his deep condolences to the families and governments of those who have perished in this tragedy," a statement released by Annan's office said.



A passer-by looks at an advertisement for wine containers in a wine shop in Paris on Monday. French winemakers, backed by a powerful cross-party alliance of lawmakers, are demanding an end to restrictions on wine advertising as they struggle to halt a decline in sales.

French wine ads pitting health officials, vintners

BY LAURENCE FROST
The Associated Press

PARIS — Embattled French winemakers, struggling with sagging sales but backed by a powerful alliance of lawmakers, have a message for those who like a tipple: Drink more.

But their bid to water down restrictions on alcohol advertising has met stiff resistance from doctors' groups who say French consumers drink quite enough already.

France's vintners have for years suffered a steady erosion of their livelihoods by margin-squeezing supermarket chains, falling demand at home and the growing popularity of Australian and American wines abroad. A government crackdown on drunk driving has also battered domestic sales.

But concern for the future of French vineyards and the 300,000 jobs they support, Parliament is to vote on a Senate amendment that would clear the way for more wine advertising on billboards, radio, in magazines and other mainstream media.

Health workers are bitterly opposed, and three medical organizations have complained to the prime minister that the proposed changes would fuel alcoholism.

But winemakers say strong growth in beer and spirit sales

shows them to be the real beneficiaries of falling wine consumption.

The anti-alcoholism association won a court ruling in January — upheld in a June 9 appeal decision — banning a campaign for Burgundy wines that violated a 1991 law on alcohol advertising.

The law allows advertisements to contain only factual information about a drink.

Wine-friendly senators responded with an amendment loosening the rules to permit a broader array of messages, slogans and images.

Parliament's lower house is set to vote on the proposal in July.

Those calling for change say current restrictions favor larger foreign wine producers whose brands are already well known.

France's independent vintners sell their best wine under some 500 low-volume "appellations" and say they can't afford to advertise each one individually. And joint campaigns like the Burgundy series fall afoul of the law because they don't refer to a single product.

"When we see all these other products coming onto the market and that people are drinking less French wine because our producers can't advertise in their own country, there's clearly something wrong," said Martin.

Messages of Support

★ Sunday we had a patriotic service at church. We are proud of all of you and are praying for you. Sharon

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Reader's
Digest



Reader's Digest wants to find out
which military service is the funniest.

The monthly magazine is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its "Humor in Uniform" column by running a contest to find the most humorous true anecdotes from every life. Activity, Reserve and retired servicemen and their families can participate.

Entries must be submitted to www.rd.com/starsandstripes by June 30. They also can be mailed to: "The Funniest Branch of the Military Contest," Reader's Digest, P.O. Box 1598, Newburgh, NY 12550.

Entries must include the entrant's full name, e-mail address and street address. Anecdotes should be no more than 100 words, true, original and related to the armed services.

The magazine's editors will select finalists from each service to appear in the September edition. Readers will then be asked to log on to www.rd.com to choose their favorite, and their votes will determine the winner.

The winner will receive an all-expense-paid trip for two to St. Kitts, Martinique & Royal Beach Casino in the Caribbean. The other four finalists will receive \$500. These winners and finalists are selected for publication in future "Humor in Uniform" columns and will receive \$300.

Romania's new laws complicate adoptions

EU pushed for regulations to eliminate baby trafficking, but U.S. families still seek children

BY LUCIA STANA SEVEANU
The Associated Press

CLUJ, Romania — Iuliana Oros holds her malnourished and listless 10-month-old daughter in her thin arms and weighs her options — keeping the baby or giving her up so the rest of her family can enough to eat.

Baby Liana is anemic and has rickets. The family of five is living on \$18 a month in welfare. The landlord has told them to vacate their home — a basement room with a bed and a stove — as he has other plans for it.

Oros, 24, looks into Liana's eyes and says softly, "A child has no price." Still, hoping that talking to a reporter would enhance her chances of getting the baby adopted, she names her terms — her daughter in exchange for shelter for the rest of her family and money to keep them alive.

That kind of transaction, however, will soon be punishable by a hefty prison term in Romania under a new law that severely restricts adoptions by foreigners. The measure has drawn loud protests from adoptive families in

the United States who say it will make it nearly impossible for Romanian children to get adopted.

Last week about a dozen New Hampshire families pleaded with President Ion Iliescu not to sign the law. But he had already done so, on June 21, and it comes into effect Jan. 1. The families are seeking release of 250 Romanian children to adoptive U.S. families.

The law was adopted under pressure from the European Union, which Romania hopes to join in 2007.

The EU, which had persuaded Romania to suspend international adoptions in 2001, was concerned about allegations of trafficking and corruption within the adoption system.

International adoptions in Romania boomed after television pictures of children living in squalor in orphanages were broadcast worldwide following the 1989 ouster of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who banned birth control and abortion.

Since then about 30,000 children have been adopted abroad. State institutions house about 40,000, some of them abandoned, others orphaned.



Iuliana Oros holds her 10-month-old baby Liana, an anemic infant who is stricken with rickets, as one of her other two children, Alexandra, 7, plays in the background outside their home in Cluj, Romania.

The law says Romanian children can be adopted only by foreigners who are their grandparents and only if a search for Romanian adoptive families has failed. No child under 2 will be permitted for adoption abroad.

And parents who request or take money or other goods in exchange for giving up a child face up to seven years in prison.

Guenter Verheugen, the EU commissioner in charge of the bloc's enlargement, said during a

visit to Bucharest last week that he welcomed the new law.

However, U.S. officials say the measure is too inflexible and that Romania won't be able to absorb its abandoned and orphaned children.

Romania has no shortage of people who feel they have no choice but to give up their children. In a country where the average monthly salary is already only \$180, there are many families struggling to get by on much less.

Britain's vulnerability

LONDON — Britain may not be able to protect itself from terrorist attack if extremist groups develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, an influential parliamentary committee warned Tuesday.

In its annual report, the Intelligence and Security Committee said the government had underestimated the threat posed by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and needed to further boost funding for its spy agencies.

The report said the number of people willing to join Islamic terrorist groups was rising, "which some argue is a consequence of military action by coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan and a perceived failure to address Palestinian/Israeli issues."

'Strangers' no more?

LONDON — The British government wants to scrap one of the stranger aspects of life in the House of Commons — the use of the term "strangers" to refer to parliamentary visitors.

Members of the public now watch Commons debates from the Strangers' Gallery, drink in the Strangers' Bar and eat in the Strangers' Restaurant.

As part of efforts to modernize the 700-year-old House of Commons, the leader of the House of Commons, Peter Hain, said he would ask legislators to remove the term from parliamentary paperwork and would look into changing the names of "strangers" areas of parliament.

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Photo by Anas Dulami/Stars and Stripes

IN THE STATES

Law to shield kids from Web porn negated

Supreme Court splits over decision, says it likely violates First Amendment

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that a law meant to punish pornographers who peddle dirty pictures to Web-surfing kids is probably an unconstitutional muzzle on free speech.

The high court divided 5-to-4 over a law passed in 1998, signed by then-President Clinton and now backed by the Bush administration. The majority said a lower court was correct to block the law from taking effect because it likely violates the First Amendment.

In considering the issue a third time, the court did not end a long fight, however. The majority voted to send the case back to a lower court for a trial that could give the government a chance to prove the law does not go too far.

The ruling in *Ashecroft v. American Civil Liberties Union* was the last of nearly 80 cases decided in a busy court term that ended Tuesday with no announcements that any of the nine justices would retire.

The year's marquee cases involving presidential power and cases with suspected ter-

rorists were announced Monday, and for the most part represented a loss for the Bush administration.

The majority, led by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, said there may have been important technological advances in the five years since a federal judge blocked the law.

Holding a new trial will allow discussion of what technology, if any, might allow adults to see and buy material that is legal for them while keeping that material out of the hands of children.

Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Clarence Thomas and Ruth Bader Ginsburg agreed with Kennedy.

Tuesday's pornography ruling is more nuanced, but still a blow to the government. It marks the third time the high court has considered the case, and it may not be the last.

The ACLU and other critics of the anti-pornography law said that it would restrict far too much material that adults may legally see and buy.

"We're very pleased with the decision," ACLU lawyer Ann Beeson said. "The status quo is still with us and the court made

it safe for artists, sex educators and Web publishers to communicate with adults without risking jail time."

Beeson said that after repeated losses in court, the government may choose to drop any further defense of the law. There was no immediate word from the Bush administration.

The law, which never took effect, would have authorized fines up to \$50,000 for the crime of placing material that is "harmful to minors" within the easy reach of children on the Internet.

In dissent, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Stephen Breyer said the law is constitutional and should be upheld.

Restrictions about who would be covered by the law and how it would be enforced "answer many of the concerns raised by those who attack its constitutionality," Breyer wrote.

Congress had tried repeatedly to find a way to protect Web-surfing children from smut without running afoul of the First Amendment.

The Supreme Court also ruled Tuesday

that foreigners cannot use an obscure U.S. law to sue in America over alleged human rights abuses, throwing out damages won by a doctor kidnapped in Mexico and brought to the United States to face trial in the death of federal drug agent.

The doctor was acquitted, and used a 1789 law to sue the people who orchestrated his abduction.

His case prompted the Supreme Court's first ruling on the U.S. Alien Tort Claims Act, a law that has been invoked in other recent cases where alleged victims of international human rights abuses won judgments in American courts.

Justices said that the law does not create a right to bring lawsuits like the one pursued by Dr. Humberto Alvarez-Machain, who was taken from his office in Mexico in 1990.

A sharply split appeals court had said that federal drug agents acted illegally when they ordered the kidnapping by paid bounty hunters, without the involvement of Mexican officials. Alvarez was acquitted, and later turned to U.S. court to seek damages.

The Supreme Court, however, said the doctor's lawsuit belonged in Mexican courts.

U.S. expels 2 Iranian guards over pictures

BY EDITH M. LEDEKER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.S. government has expelled two Iranian security guards working at Iran's U.N. mission, citing activities "incompatible with their stated duties" — diplomatic language for spying.

The guards were taking photos of infrastructure, modes of transportation and New York City landmarks, a U.S. official said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity. They were the third set of Iranian guards caught taking pictures.

"The other ones were warned. This was the third time, and this time we kicked them out," the U.S. official said.

The two Iranians, who did not have diplomatic passports, left the United States in the last few days, the official said.

Richard Grenell, spokesman for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, confirmed the expulsions but gave no details.

"We asked them to leave because we were very concerned about their activities, which were incompatible with their stated duties," he said.

New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said in November that two Iranian citizens were questioning who was taking video images of the subway tracks on the No. 7 line in Queens.



Montgomery County Maryland firefighters load the casket of Mattie Stepanek into their truck following his funeral ceremony Monday at the St. Catherine Labourer Catholic Church in Wheaton, Md. Mattie, who had a fondness for firefighters, was about a month shy of his 14th birthday when he died June 22 of complications from muscular dystrophy. He was a best-selling author who published five volumes of verse. Former President Carter spoke at the funeral service.

Young poet remembered

Bird flu a concern

WASHINGTON — A type of bird flu that has killed millions of chickens is becoming more infectious to mammals. Scientists fear it could cause the next worldwide pandemic in humans.

The avian flu has forced authorities to slaughter millions of chickens and other fowl in Asia to stem outbreaks in recent years.

Already the flu has passed from birds to humans in Hong Kong, killing six of 18 people infected in 1997, and human cases have been reported since then in Vietnam and Thailand.

Leech sale OK'd

WASHINGTON — The government has lent its seal of approval to a marketing an age-old medical device — leeches.

The Food and Drug Administration said Monday that RhoPharm SAS, a French firm, is the first company to request and receive FDA clearance to market the bloodsucking aquatic animals as medical devices.

From wire reports

U.S. renews diplomatic ties with Libya

BY BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States is resuming direct diplomatic ties with Libya even while exploring reports that Moammar Gadhafi took part in a plot to assassinate Saudi Arabia's crown prince.

And the State Department also is advising Americans to be cautious if they go there. "Although Libya has curtailed its support for international terrorism, it may maintain residual contacts with some of its former terrorist clients," the department said in a travel warning.

Only a brief reference to the plot reports

was contained in an announcement Monday in Tripoli by Assistant Secretary of State William J. Burns, after he held talks with Gadhafi.

Burns said only that he and J. Cofer Black, who heads the department's office of counterterrorism, had discussed with the Libyan leader "recent public allegations regarding Libya and Saudi Arabia."

At the State Department, spokesman Adam Ereli said, "I think we made clear our concerns about the story" concerning an alleged plot against Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

Burns's inauguration of a new U.S. liaison office in the Libyan capital came 24 years after the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli was closed.

He said Libya would take steps to establish a diplomatic office in Washington.

"Both sides confirmed that these actions would assist the step-by-step process of strengthening relations as Libya fulfills each of its commitments and the U.S. continues to respond in kind," Burns said in a statement released also in Washington.

The Libyan official news agency JANA said Burns and Foreign Minister Abdel Rahman Shalgam had agreed on the parallel diplomatic moves.

They marked a continuing improvement in U.S. relations with the North African country following Gadhafi's promise last December to dismantle his chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs.

'Qualities of leadership' are driving the 'gate'

Poll suggests presidential race a personal issue

BY WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

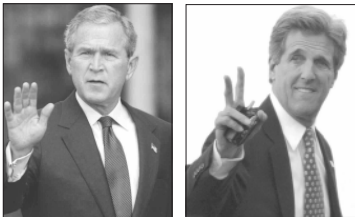
WASHINGTON — President Bush's continued edge over Democratic John Kerry on leadership skills and battling terrorism are keeping the presidential race close despite widespread concerns about Iraq, a bipartisan poll suggests.

The Battleground Poll, sponsored by George Washington University, found Bush and Kerry running even, with 48 percent each in a two-way matchup. It also found signs the public is growing slightly more optimistic about the economy.

Kerry has the advantage with voters on issues ranging from Social Security and prescription drugs to jobs and federal spending. Bush leads on handling terrorism and has a slight edge on Iraq and — in this poll — on taxes.

Just over half in the Battleground Poll, 51 percent, said it's time to give a new person a chance to be president. Yet Bush continually matches up evenly against Kerry in many polls.

The reasons for that may be personal. "The qualities of leadership are driving the vote," said Celinda Lake, Democratic pollster who helped produce the poll. "The only issue driving the vote is Iraq. The other things determining the vote are personal qualities."



President Bush leads the Battleground Poll on handling terrorism and has a slight edge on Iraq and taxes. Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry leads the poll on Social Security and prescription drugs.

Bush continues to hold the lead he has had for months on strong leadership, on saying what he believes and on being steady and consistent.

Kerry still has problems with voters on "flip-flopping and steady leadership," Lake said. Bush's re-election campaign spent more than \$80 million on campaign ads during the spring intended to raise doubts on those fronts.

Republican pollster Ed Goetz, who helped produce the poll, said Kerry is stronger than Bush only on one of the qualities tested in the survey — in that he cares about people.

And Bush is now tied on which candidate would do a better job of keeping America prosperous, after Kerry led in late March in that area. And optimism is grow-

ing about the future of the economy six months from now.

When the economy was weakest, Bush was seen as stronger on the war in Iraq and fighting terror. Now that his support for the war is sinking, his standing on the economy is improving.

The longer the two main issues of the election — the Iraq war and the economy — continue to offset one another in public perception, the more important character issues will become, said Goetz.

The most troubling finding, Goetz said, is the race is so close and the electorate so polarized that candidates and their campaign staffers may have little control over what moves voters.

"This is a campaign affected most by major news events," Goetz said.

The poll of 1,000 likely voters was taken June 20-23.

Democrats, GOP name convention speakers

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former President Clinton and Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts will have prime speaking slots at the Democratic National Convention in Boston next month.

Key speakers at the Republican convention in late August and early September in New York City will include California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Clinton is scheduled to speak July 26, the opening night of the four-day convention, and Kennedy will address the audience the second day, Democratic officials said Monday. The vice presidential pick will speak July 28, and presumed Democratic nominee John Kerry will close the convention July 29 with his acceptance speech.

Kerry's former rivals plus Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio and Al Sharpton, who remain in the primary race, will have a role at the convention, although officials haven't decided what that will be.



Clinton



Schwarzenegger

ty Rod Paige.

No details were provided about the subjects Schwarzenegger would address in his remarks or how long he would speak in prime time. Rob Stutzman, the governor's spokesman, told reporters "no conditions" were attached to Schwarzenegger's appearance.

Vice President Dick Cheney will speak Wednesday night, and Bush will wrap up the convention Thursday night with a speech formally accepting the GOP nomination. He will be introduced by the host governor, George Pataki.

The Los Angeles Times contributed to this story

BY JOSE MARTINEZ
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — With thousands of Republican set to invade the city this summer, high-priced escorts and strippers are preparing for one grand old party.

Agencies are flying in extra call girls from around the globe to meet the expected demand during the Aug. 30-Sept. 2 gathering at Madison Square Garden.

"We have girls from London, Seattle, California, all coming in for that week," said a madam at a Manhattan escort service. "It's the week everyone wants to work."

"It's going to be big," agreed one operator at a midtown escort service.

Charging from \$300 to upward of \$1,000 for an hour of companionship and a whole lot more, escorts said they can always count on conventioners for big business.

"It doesn't matter what party you come from," said Robyn Few, a \$500-an-hour California call girl who now runs Sex Workers Outreach Project.

"When you want to buy sex, you will."

That's the hope among escort services expecting a windfall from randy Republicans. "We've got everything organized — the hotels, the flights, the advertisements," said another escort service operator. "We'll

probably have 60 girls that week, instead of the usual 30."

Political conventions have long been a boon for the sex industry.

At the 1992 Democratic convention in New York, bikini-clad female oil wrestlers dropped their tops on a flatbed truck in front of Madison Square Garden.

At the 1996 Republican convention in San Diego, an escort service in search of delegate dollars changed its name to GOP: Good Old-Fashioned Pleasure.

While many escort agencies operating on the sly out of Manhattan hotels and apartment buildings welcome the influx of potential customers, others are wary of increased police attention. "We're just being very secure," said a woman who runs an agency. "So we won't be taking on any out-of-towners."

NYPD spokesman Sgt. Kevin Hayes said, "Our quality-of-life and crime-reduction efforts will remain intact."

Tracy Qum, author of the autobiographical novel "Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl," said she worries cops will crack down on the most visible sex workers.

"I get depressed whenever there's a big political convention because I know the street girls are going to be hassled, arrested and treated like criminals," Qum said. "All in the name of 'cleaning up' our city for



AP

New York City Police officers talk to a motorist at a checkpoint near Madison Square Garden on Friday. This summer's Republican National Convention will bring restrictions in some areas, but call-girl operators expect brisk business with conventioners in town.

these people from out of town."

The players on the legal end of the city's sex industry have no such worries — and strip club owners are salivating at the prospect of crowds equipped with bunches of cash bills.

Clubs have started booking private parties for delegates anxious to oggle topless beauties after a day of watching clothed politicians boast about family values.

"We have our show down to a science," said Lonnie Hanover, a spokesman for Scores, the upscale topless club. "We'll be full every night with what we think are the best-looking girls in the industry."

Messages of Support

★ To all of you wonderful people who are defending our great country, THANK YOU!!!! You are in my thoughts and prayers every second of the day. As I shed tears of gratitude for you I must say, "You are appreciated more than you will ever know." God Bless you and return home safely, Kathleen MarchesXXXXXX

★ I am praying daily for all of you. For your protection and safety. For your witness to others. For you to have quick reflexes, alert eyes, sharp cars, to not grow weary but have strength to do your jobs. Our entire Sunday School class is praying for you consistently, as well as our church. We are also praying for your families. We are EXTREMELY proud of what you are doing, of all of the military. You are our HEROES! Read Psalm 91. Lori Anderson

★ The buzz at the office water cooler is that the US soldiers are doing a great job! Your cause is just and the support for you is overwhelming. Be strong! Fight Hard! Thank You! - L. Jones

OPINION

Women's work was not so long ago

And now for a small story from the Latter-day Annals of Working Womanhood.

Fresh out of college in 1963, I got my first job at Newsweek magazine. In those days, women were hired as researchers and men were hired as writers ... and that was that.

It was, as we used to say, a good job for a woman. If we groused about working for the men we studied with in college, we did it privately. It was the way things were.

I don't share my garden-variety piece of personal history as a lament or gripe. We isn't me. Nor am I one to regale the younger generation with memories of the bad old days when I walked four miles in the snow to school. They already know that women were treated as second-class citizens.

But what they don't know, I have found, is that this was legal. When it was legal to have segregated ads that read "male wanted" and "female wanted," it was legal to fire a flight attendant if she got married. It was legal to get rid of a teacher when she became pregnant.

If a boss paid a woman less because she was a woman, he was unapologetic. If he didn't want to hire a woman for a "man's job," he just didn't.

We sometimes forget that the lives of men and women didn't simply passively evolve.

But on Friday, we'll celebrate the 40th anniversary of a powerful engine of this social change, the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

One unexpected word was tucked into Title VII of that landmark legislation banning racial segregation and discrimination: sex. Legend has it that Howard W. Smith, a Virginian and head of the House Rules Committee, introduced sex as a joke. He was trying to ridicule the idea that you could legislate social behavior.

But the segregationist was just half of an odd couple. The other half were feminists. The National Women's Party had been trying to get such a law long before they brought it to Smith. After he introduced the amendment to ripples of laughter, Rep. Martha Griffiths of Michigan, one of only nine women in Congress, argued for it fiercely.

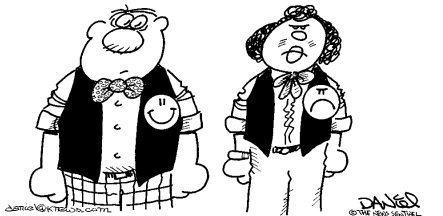
Omitting sex, she said, would protect only African-American males from discrimination. And if blacks were protected, the only unprotected class left would be white women.

When President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bill, it became illegal for the first time to discriminate in employment on the grounds of sex. What had seemed to many like a "natural" way of treating men and women differently because of their roles in the family and society became what the courts now call "invidious."

"Title VII legitimized women's search for equality in the work force," says historian Alice Kessler-Harris.

This 40-year "search" has been enormous success stories. In the first Title VII case, the Supreme Court ruled that it was illegal to refuse to hire a woman because she had small children. Under pressure, newspapers stopped segregating their employment

WALMART



pages. Women tipped into some "male jobs" and took hold in others.

Today's working women sometimes wonder whether we've won the booby prize — the right to be treated like men. We haven't yet figured out the next phase, how to get support for family and work.

But there are still plenty of reminders that the bad old days are not so old. Just last Tuesday, a federal court allowed a class-action suit on behalf of 1.6 million women employees of Wal-Mart. When a single mother discovered that her male counterpart made \$23,000 more, her Wal-Mart boss replied,

"He has a wife and two children to support."

When a woman wanted to sell hardware, she was sent to sell baby clothes. And another woman looking for a promotion confronted a store manager who said, "Men are here to make a career and women aren't."

When the feminists lobbied the old segregationist to include sex, Smith said mischievously and maybe maliciously, "I don't think it can do any harm ... maybe it can do some good."

He was joking. But they were left smiling.

Ellen Goodman is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Democrats following an old script: 'The Outsiders'

BY JAMES K. GLASSMAN

Scripts Howard

In a private conversation on the Senate floor last week, Vice President Dick Cheney lured the "F-word" at Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., an intemperate critic. Cheney wouldn't repeat "I expressed myself rather forcefully," he said. "Felt better after I had done it."

As Iraq has moved closer to democracy over the past few weeks, the terrorist opponents of sovereignty, as expected, have grown more desperate and more violent in their counterinsurgency.

A similar pattern has occurred in the United States. As Republicans have moved closer to consolidating power in all three branches of government, Democratic opponents of free-market conservatism have grown more desperate and more rhetorically violent in their own counterinsurgency.

Just listen to the former vice president of the United States, Al Gore. "How dare the incompetent and willful members of this Bush-Cheney administration humiliate our nation and our people in the eyes of the world and in the conscience of our own people!" he screamed at a speech May 26 [in] New York. "How dare they subject us to such dishonor and disgrace. How dare they drag the good name of the United States of America through the mud!"

But no event epitomizes the Democratic strategy better than the June 23 premiere of "Fahrenheit 9/11." Michael Moore's propaganda film, which former Nation columnist Christopher Hitchens describes as "an exercise in moral frivolity ... facile crowd-pleasing ... [and] abject political cowardice."

Until now, Moore has been an outlier, a fringe character, a petulant extremist. Armond White, in the current issue of the New York Press, a counter culture weekly, calls

him a "fascist liberal." In The New York Times on Saturday, David Brooks showed how Moore's political philosophy is rooted in an abiding hatred of his countrymen, displayed with gusto abroad.

Americans "are possibly the dumbest people on the planet," Moore told the British paper The Mirror. "We've got that big [expletive] grin on our face all the time because our brains aren't loaded down," he told a crowd in Munich, Germany. "The U.S. government started the war in Iraq in order to make it easy for U.S. corporations to do business in other countries. They intend to use cheap labor in those countries, which will make Americans rich," he told a Japanese newspaper. "It's all part of the same ball of wax, right? The oil companies, Israel, Halliburton," he said in Cambridge, England.

So Moore is radical and a hater. But we've had a lot of those in our history. The big difference is that Moore is now embraced by

the Democratic Party's establishment. Among those paying homage at his film's Washington opening were Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe and Florida Sen. Bob Graham, a Democrat. What on earth are these people doing at a Michael Moore premiere? They're scared. America has been undergoing a sea change over the past quarter-century, and Democrats, in this election, are trying to turn back the tide. Whatever it takes.

In the 1970s, more Americans identified themselves as Democrats than Republicans by an average of 21 percentage points; in the 1980s, the margin slipped to 11 percentage points; today, the parties are dead even.

Republicans ... have held the White House for 16 of the past 24 years, and their appointees are in the ascendancy in the Supreme Court. No significant Democratic legislation has been signed into law since the 1993 tax increases.

No wonder the Bush campaign characterizes Democrats as "wild-eyed." In this desperation, they seem willing to debase, if not destroy, their own party.

I doubt this approach will work. Republicans are certainly vulnerable, and the administration's postwar planning in Iraq deserves criticism. But the director of "Fahrenheit 9/11" is wrong.

Americans aren't stupid. We don't like extremists, don't admire Marxist-style rhetoric and can recognize conspiracy fantasies when we see them. We admire cool determination, optimism and pride.

A better strategy for Democrats would have been to show America a clear, rational alternative and make the Republicans look like the wild-eyed ones. Despite Cheney's outburst, it's way too late for that now.

James K. Glassman is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and host of the Web site TechCentralStation.com

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Stripped down votes

OH CLEVELAND — A Cleveland gentlemen's club is offering a new service — voter registration — and asking other clubs to do the same.

At Circus in the Flats, servers supply patrons with registration cards, pens and instructions. And on breaks, dancers mail letters urging thousands of other clubs to help register voters.

Club co-owner Angelina Spencer said she has signed up about 225 workers and customers. Spencer is the executive director of the Association of Club Executives. The organization, which represents about 800 exotic establishments, has registered another 5,000 voters, she said.

Spencer said she took action after seeing what she calls blows to freedom by Republican leaders.

Planted cars detailed

TX AMARILLO — If you're riding through a Panhandle wheat field and come across some vintage Cadillacs planted nose down in the ground, don't call for help. It's an art installation, not a car crash.

The old Caddys have been adorned with new coats of paint and graffiti for the 30th anniversary of what started as a three-dimensional environmental sculpture along Interstate 40.

The Cadillacs, ranging from a 1949 coupe to a 1963 sedan, were painted white for the celebration. Amarillo businessman and art patron Stanley Marsh was the first to spray paint one of the newly coated Caddys.

The Ant Farm, a radical art and design collective, created and installed the landmark in 1974 for Marsh.

Quake shakes 'em awake

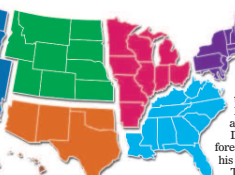
AK PALMER — A powerful earthquake Monday jolted Alaska panhandle residents out of their sleep, but no significant damage was reported, authorities said. The quake happened at 1:50 a.m. Alaska time and was centered beneath the ocean off the southern end of the panhandle, said Bill Knight, a scientist at the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center at Palmer. The center had calculated a preliminary magnitude of 7.0 but the U.S. Geological Survey later put the magnitude at 6.7.

The jolt, capable of significant damage had it happened near populated areas on land, did not generate a tsunami or seismic sea wave, Knight said. Callers to the center reported only "items falling off shelves," he said.

Brooklyn Bridge shooting

NY NEW YORK — A gunman on the pedestrian walkway of the Brooklyn Bridge shot himself in the chest last week and randomly firing several shots into the air, police said. He died soon after. The unidentified man was near the Manhattan side of the landmark bridge when he opened fire about 10:30 a.m., police said.

As police scurried to secure the bridge and clear other pedestrians to safety, the man sat down on the walkway, put the gun to his chest and squeezed off a single round from his 9mm handgun, police said.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Long-lost dog tags found

HI HONOLULU — A man looking for treasures under Walkiki sands made an unusual discovery with his metal detector recently.

Fred Didier found a couple of dog tags from a World War II sailor, who lost them nearly 60 years ago.

The corroded ID belonged to Counce Mills Bush, who served aboard the battleship USS Idaho from 1942 to 1946. The ship wasn't at Pearl Harbor during the Dec. 7 attack in 1941, but it did sail to Hawaii during the war in 1942, 1943 and 1945.

Bush, who is now 89 and living in Pensacola, Fla., has no recollection of the missing metal disks.

"They found them where?" he said. "Waikiki beach? Well that's really something. I don't even remember losing my dog tags."

The long-lost tags are now at the North Shore Surf and Cultural Museum in Haleiwa.

Boy dies in flooded creek

NC MOUNT AIRY — A 7-year-old boy died after his uncle tried to drive across a flooded creek with him against the wishes of the boy's father, authorities said.

Jonathan Wayne Morris died early Saturday at a hospital, said



Here's the beef

LI Col. Robert McCauley, 3rd COSCOM, Fort Des Moines, stands behind a stack of 10,000 beef sticks prior to their shipment to Iraq from the Ames (Iowa) post office. Behind McCauley is Bob Johnson, president of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association. The Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation and W&G Marketing in Ames coordinated the "Beef 'N Up the Troops" project.

state trooper Rick Lawson.

The boy's father, Wayne Morris, got out of the station wagon when it approached the creek, Lawson said. He told the boy's uncle, Daniel Morris, he would not ride across it.

Daniel Morris drove off before the father could remove his son.

The station wagon was swept downstream about 50 feet and got stuck against the bank, Lawson said. Wayne Morris tried to rescue his son from the car, but accidentally dropped him in the creek, Lawson said.

No charges were filed and troopers continued to investigate the incident.

Crowing rooster banned

MA WEST STOCKBRIDGE — Following complaints from neighbors and an early morning site visit to hear from the bird for itself, the planning board in this small town in the Berkshires has decided that a crowing rooster must go.

The feisty Rhode Island red, dubbed "The Hawk" had his supporters. It was standing room only as about 85 people squeezed into the meeting room for Monday night's 4-1 vote denying a special permit to Amy Loveless to keep the rooster and 10 hens. The Berkshire Eagle reported.

Father kills son, self

CO DENVER — A father fatally shot his paralyzed 40-year-old son, then killed himself after officials rejected his request for help caring for the son, authorities said.

Police found the bodies after entering Gerald E. Carabatta's home when neighbors reported newspapers piled up outside.

Carabatta had told neighbors he was overwhelmed and could not get help for his son, Robert, who was paralyzed in a bar fight three years ago.

Arlene Miles, president of the Colorado Health Care Association, said even if Carabatta had been turned down for Medicaid, there were other places he could have sought help.

The father and son had often gone fly fishing and camping in years past, but they were rarely seen outside the home more recently. Carabatta quit his job as a mechanic to care for his son.

Grand theft auto fees

NH NASHUA — A former clerk in the city's Department of Motor Vehicle Registration is accused of stealing about \$10,000 during her two-year stint. Police charged Jeni Couroumis Leonard, 24, with felony theft, which carries a prison sentence of up to 15 years.

Leonard was released on personal recognizance for a July 6 arraignment in Nashua District Court. She resigned last week.

Leonard could not be reached for comment.

Leonard is accused of pocketing cash paid in state and city licensing fees and not sending the registration information to the state Division of Motor Vehicles.

Auditors are trying to determine how many Nashua vehicles on the road are not registered.



Fun with aliens

Tina L. Blevins, left, helps her nephew, Braydon Blevins, 4, create a sand alien during the last day of the Fenwick Festival in Middletown, Ohio.



Forced nap

Glenn Hacker, from Manchester, Ky., naps under the River Road overpass while he waits for a new battery. His Harley-Davidson motorcycle ran out of juice while he was driving home along U.S. Route 68 near Springfield, Ohio.



Savoring the last light

Five-year old Gillian Rae, on swing at left, of Hartwell, Ga., and Taylor Kooms, right, 11, of Seneca, S.C., swing to the sounds of the Hart County, Ga., Community Band at the Big Oaks Recreation Area in Hartwell, Ga., on Lake Hartwell during a pre-July Fourth celebration.



A fitting last tribute Followed by fellow mourners, Gino Gallaceca, seated right, and Ron Gilmore ride on a horse-drawn hearse during a half-mile funeral procession for Gilmore's father, Glenn Gilmore, in Bristol, Wis. The 1856 hearse was pulled by Percheron draft horses. Bell, right, and Bonnie, which Glenn Gilmore had owned for 17 years and trained with Gallaceca. Gilmore, 88, had wanted his friend to drive the hearse upon his death.



Nothin' like a good bath Max, a 2-year-old male French bulldog, gets washed at the dog park in Wellington, Fla. Proceeds from the event, sponsored by Courtyard Animal Hospital, go to the Pet Haven Rescue in Los Angeles, Fla. Pet Haven takes in unwanted dogs, spays or neuters them, and then finds them a home.



Up, up and away Hot air balloons launch at the Michigan Challenge Balloonfest in Howell, Mich.



Teaching lil' sis Meghan O'Brien, 4, left, of Niskayuna, N.Y., and her brother, Michael O'Brien, 6, fish in the waters of the Mohawk River in Niskayuna.

Bearly surviving

NC CHARLOTTE — Denton Turner figured he was dead already. So he didn't cry out, didn't move, didn't even open his eyes as a bear attacked him last week at Yellowstone National Park.

The Charlotte native, a sophomore at Appalachian State University, suffered bruises, lacerations, puncture wounds to his back and a bite below his right armpit.

Still, he hopes to return soon to his summer job in the kitchen at the Old Faithful Lodge Cafeteria — a job he took to satisfy his fascination with the outdoors.

Bob Matson, a spokesman for the North American Bear Center, said it's possible the bear attacked because it was surprised, then simply lost interest.

Historical horses

MT ULM — Four Spanish Barbos, spirited Indian war horses, are living on land near Ulin Pishkun State Park as part of an effort to help visitors appreciate the historic ties between horses and the American Indians of Montana.

An Indian advisory group, the All Nations Pishkun Association, is working with state officials on the project next to the park south of Great Falls. The Barbos are descendants of horses brought to North America by the Spanish in the 16th century.

Watching from above

WA WENATCHEE — The Chelan County sheriff's office has started helicopter patrols of Columbia River dams and power lines as part of a general increase in security. Cameras have been added at all the public utility district dams. The helicopters patrol randomly or are dispatched if there is any suspicious activity.

New on the bench

AL MONTGOMERY — Gov. Bob Riley appointed his state finance director as chief justice. Drayton Nabers will replace ousted Chief Justice Roy Moore. Riley said Nabers would bring stability to the court system. Moore was relieved of his duties for refusing a federal court order to remove his Ten Commandments monument from public display in the state judicial building.

Who should exhume?

IL OREGON — Ogle County officials are at odds with Warren Reed over who should supervise exhumation of his sister's remains. A judge gave Reed permission in April to exhume the remains of his sister, who was killed near this northern Illinois town 56 years ago. County officials say the case is an open murder investigation and they have jurisdiction.

Absent apples

ME LEWISTON — Last winter's bitter cold, coupled with a shortage of insulating snow, has taken a severe toll on Maine apple orchards, growers say.

"We're counting dead trees not by the hundreds but by the thousands," said Don Ricker of Ricker Orchards in Turner. Wallingford Orchards in Auburn lost 25 percent of its 4,000 apple trees.

Tennessee bonds up

TN NASHVILLE — Bond rating agency Standard & Poor's upgraded its outlook for Tennessee from negative to stable. S&P credited the upgrade to a structurally balanced budget, a turnaround in state finances, and Gov. Phil Bredemeyer's conservative approach to revamping TennCare, the state's health care program for poor, disabled and otherwise uninsured people. The change will mean lower borrowing costs for Tennessee.

At an impasse

MI PETOSKEY — Northern Michigan Hospital and Teamsters Local 406 remain split on a proposed wage increase offered to striking nurses in April.

After two bargaining sessions, talks remain stalled and the 19-month walkout by Teamsters-represented nurses continues. The 4 percent raise is similar to increases given to other hospital employees, the Traverse City Record-Eagle newspaper reported.

Building bridges

OR SALEM — Oregon has finished the sale of \$300 million in revenue bonds to finance repairs and replacements to bridges in cities and counties throughout the state. The bond issuance is the first under the Oregon Transportation Act III. State officials estimate the work should create about 4,700 construction jobs.

Lining his pockets

PA PITTSBURGH — An executive of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was fired after admitting to embezzling tens of thousands of dollars from the public-private partnership, conservancy officials said. The conservancy's chief operating and financial officer, signed a statement admitting to embezzling between \$60,000 and \$70,000.

Lewis and Clark statues

SD WASHBURN — Statues of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and Mandaan Chief Sheheke are waiting to greet visitors celebrating their historic meeting.

The 12-foot steel statues will be dedicated Sunday as part of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center's bicentennial celebration of the journey Meriwether Lewis and William Clark made to the Pacific Northwest.

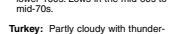
Sheheke welcomed Lewis and Clark as they traveled through what is now North Dakota and assured their survival through the winter of 1804-05 by offering peace, advice and food.

Expensive horn

NY NEW YORK — Little did a triceratops dinosaur imagine as he roamed what is now Montana more than 60 million years ago that his horn would end up on Park Avenue, fetching \$550 at auction.

It was a bargain for Lot 69, offered at an estimated value of \$1,500 to \$2,000 by Guemsey's of its "Dinosaurs & Other Prehistoric Creatures" sale. Also on sale from prehistoric Montana was a thigh bone of a young Edmontosaurus.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



High temperatures 70s for the day.

FRONTS: COLD, WARM, STATIONARY

Weather icons: Sun, Clouds, Rain, Snow, Ice, Sunny, Partly Cloudy, Cloudy

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Iraq's Shiites worry about losing standing

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — More than any other community, Iraq's majority Shiites have benefited from the now-ended American occupation. But the community faces many challenges, some arising from internal divisions, others from its association with the Americans.

Shiites are thought to make up 60 percent of Iraq's estimated 25 million people. Provided that they vote along sectarian lines, they are certain to emerge as the biggest winners when elections are held in January, thus translating their numbers to formal political power.

Already, Iraq's first prime minister after Saddam Hussein, Iyad Allawi, is a Shiite and the United States declined over sovereignty Monday to an interim government dominated by Shiites.

But the future of Iraq's Shiites is more complicated. The community is among the poorest in Iraq. The mainly Shiite south is by far the most impoverished part of the country.

"In reality, the Shiites have barely won five percent of their rights," said Moussa al-Naghi, an imam from Baghdad's Shiite district Sadr City. "We were oppressed under Saddam and we are the biggest victims of the violence now," he said.

Shiites must also convince their fellow Iraqis and a Sunni-dominated Arab world that they are qualified to rule Iraq wisely. They must also allay widespread fears among Arab governments that the Arab and Shiite community in Shiite Iran won't have a say in how Iraq is run.

They also need to avoid flaunting their newfound influence, overcome their own divisions and tame the more radical factions within the community.



The top U.S. administrator in Iraq until Monday, L. Paul Bremer, talks to an Iraqi Shiite Muslim woman at the University for Humanities, Science and Theological Studies in Hillah, Iraq, last week.

Iraqi Sunni and Shiite men carry a banner that reads "Shiites and Sunnis are brothers like Hasan and Hussein" as they march to a mosque for prayers in Baghdad last September. The handover of sovereignty in Iraq signals an uncertain future for the nation's Shiite majority, which is plagued by poverty and links to high-profile militants.

It won't be easy.

The freedoms that came with Saddam's ouster brought divisions that have long existed within the Shiite community to the surface.

Some of these involve influence and money. Others are based on theological differences, foreign links or the extent of cooperation by some factions with the American occupiers.

Competition between rival factions seeking to broaden their base of support have deepened old rifts.

The relative tolerance shown by many Shiites to the U.S.-led oc-

cupation has undermined the sect's patriotic credentials among Iraqi nationalists. That is a notion that some Shiite leaders must overcome in order to win acceptance outside their own base.

In contrast, Sunni Muslims in areas west and north of Baghdad have waged a guerrilla war against the Americans for most of the past 14 months. The Shiites, however, did not follow suit until April, when militiamen loyal to an anti-American militant cleric launched an uprising against U.S. and other coalition troops in Baghdad and across southern and central Iraq.

But the cleric, Muqtada

al-Sadr, is a 30-year-old maverick who doesn't enjoy the support of the older and more established clerics, a fact that has in large part assured the Americans of the continued goodwill of most Shiites.

Influence shown by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, the Shiites' most senior cleric, has been another source of friction between Shiites and others. The Iranian-born cleric has forced Washington on at least two occasions to drop or revise political blueprints for Iraq. That reinforced Shiites' power, but also created new enemies — especially among the Sunni Arabs.

Manifestations of the Shiites' newfound confidence, like elaborate religious rituals and marches, have left some in the Sunni Arab minority indignant. Shiite pride reminds the Sunnis of the privileged position they lost with the collapse of Saddam's Sunni-dominated regime.

The specter of a Sunni-Shiite war loomed ominously close in March after horrific blasts at Shiite shrines killed nearly 200 people on the holiest day of their calendar, Ashura. Tilt-for-tilt killings of junior clerics from both sects followed, but no wholesale clashes took place.

Some Iraqis and experts blame such tensions on what they call the "sectarian approach" to Iraqi politics by the Americans such as ensuring that Allawi's government reflects the nation's ethnic and religious mosaic.

"The Americans' biggest mistake is the use of the sectarian approach," said Fahmi Howaidi, a prominent Islamic writer. "It's a bomb ready to explode," he said from his Cairo, Egypt, home.

Ami bombings and transition, weddings go on

BY FARNAZ FASSIH

The Wall Street Journal

BAGHDAD — When their elder son was married two years ago, Mary Rose and Sasser Nasser invited 400 guests and rented out the posh Alawiya club for the reception. The family hired the best band and danced into the morning. Then the wedding party cruised in cars around Baghdad clapping and singing. The happy couple honeymooned at the Rasheed Hotel, the best the city had to offer.

For weeks leading to the day of their younger son's marriage recently, Mary Rose Nasser, a devout Christian, says she knelt before a framed poster of the Virgin Mary in her living room and silently prayed, "Please, Lord and Mother Mary, let there be no explosions on Ziad's wedding. Please, God, keep car bombs and guns away from us on Friday. Amen."

Every week, hundreds of Iraqis get married and start new lives. Almost every wedding has to accommodate the security nightmare gripping much of Iraq.

Many families don't do a celebration at all. Those that do usually take extraordinary measures to ensure their guests' safety.

"I remember my friends who got married before the war were nervous about their dress, make-up and party. But I don't think about any of that. I wake up at night worrying whether the day will end safely."

Rana Al-Bandar

Iraqi bride

Iraqi weddings now start in the early afternoon, for tea or lunch.

They end by 5 p.m. so guests can be home before dark.

In a culture in which flash and extravagance suggest social status, low profile is

now the order of the day. Hair salons catering to brides open as early as 7 a.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, weekend days in which the Muslim world that are popular for weddings, so brides can be ready for early afternoon fetes.

Florists make house calls to decorate the bridal car, so they don't attract attention at their shops. Caterers and restaurants complain that they have to serve food in haste so guests can hurry home early. Baste grumble that playing in the blazing afternoon heat isn't cool.

"Weddings are supposed to be care-free, happy occasions," says Bassam Hannah, the director of the Engineer's Club, which rents out its banquet hall for weddings. "Now it makes me very uncomfortable and nervous to have weddings here. I sit in my office and look at my watch and want everyone to leave early."

As for the wedding of Ziad and Rana Al-Bandar, the Nassers' son and new daughter-in-law, "Ninety percent of our planning was focused on security and safety. It was like I was preparing for a military operation instead of my own wedding," says Ziad, the 26-year-old groom, who studies computers in college but couldn't find a job and now owns a women's accessories shop.

The bride, Rana, an 18-year-old college sophomore who is studying pharmacology, was no more at ease on the eve of the big day. "I remember my friends who got married before the war were nervous about their dress, make-up and party. But I don't think about any of that. I wake up at night worrying whether the day will end, -it's a bomb ready to explode," he said from his Cairo, Egypt, home.

Just as things were falling into place, a close call nearly caused Ziad to cancel everything. A week before the ceremony, he and his mother were driving to deliver wedding invitations to relatives when they heard gunshots. A car sped past them and gunmen opened fire on another vehicle parked on the side of the road. With masks over their heads and AK-47s in their arms, the men shot the driver, abducted the passenger and made off with the car. Ziad screamed for his mother to duck. She kept telling him to calm down.

Afterward, he stopped on a bridge on the way home and sobbed.

"We don't want electricity, we don't want food. We just want our normal life back," said Mary Rose. "I want to go to my son's wedding and not be afraid of someone dying on the way."

Troops face good, bad in war of contrasts

BY JOHN BALZAR

Los Angeles Times

AL ASAD, Iraq — The temperature is "a hundred and crazy."

Here in this summer of sand, everybody is within reach of lethal weaponry but nobody has sight of a cold beer.

They sleep in rows of flimsy prefabricated "cans."

And listen to rock 'n' roll.

For Americans in uniform, duty in Iraq in 2004 is some of what they expected and a very equal measure of what they didn't. You wouldn't be wrong to say that life on the war front is something of an argument with itself.

They suffer the scalding heat, but they also enjoy plenty of air conditioning. Some days they wolf down cold MREs (meals ready to eat) in the field; other times, they enjoy second helpings from the ice cream freezer in the chow hall. They breathe clouds of dust and filth; yet many rest on comfortable mattresses and enjoy vast libraries of movie DVDs.

Some of them perform conventional combat roles here, patrolling and hunting insurgents. Ambushes, mortar attacks, mines and roadside bombings are grim facts of daily existence. But other troops have been occupied with the unconventional tasks of delivering playground equipment for schools, providing police, medical and leadership training, and fixing water treatment plants — front-line conduits for millions of Iraqis that have poured into jobs and rebuilding programs.

On almost any day of the week, they will tell you two things for certain: (1) It requires superhuman effort to drink the gallons of water necessary to counter the heat, and (2) the American press and the American people misunderstand their deployment in Iraq.

Get to know them and they soften a little. They all agree on something else. The days are getting edgier as troops contemplate plans that will determine whether they advance a step or their efforts are pushed back. About that there is no softening at all.

Typical perhaps are the Marines here in western Iraq, midway between Baghdad



U.S. Marines from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment record the location of an improvised explosive device which detonated overnight near an Iraqi police station in Khanna, near Fallujah, Iraq, on May 18.

and the Syrian border. Here, with the infantry of the 2nd battalion, 7th Marines, Cpl. John Preston of Warsaw, Ky., stewed for a while. As homeland news reports filtered back to troops, he saw too much emphasis on Americans being attacked and killed.

He wanted to convey a broader story. He wrote a song with his friend Lance Cpl. Nick Hoffmann of Middletown, N.Y. Hoffmann put it to pictures in a music video. Preston established his own Web site. The two are now battalion celebrities, and Preston is considering a contract offer from a California record company.

His acoustic-guitar rock 'n' roll ballad is called "Good Good America." It was inspired by the day he led a squad into an Iraqi town and was surrounded by 60 or so smiling schoolgirls. They chanted, "Good, good America."

"That grabbed me," Preston recalled. "It was the first time here that I thought we were serving a purpose, doing good."

But his lyrics also capture the inescapable dichotomy of service here, the frustrating burden of it — because in the shadows and alleyways behind the schoolgirls, there are plenty of angry men with their faces wrapped in scarves who sing another chant and provide a different chorus to his song: "Die, die American." His video can be seen at johnpreston.us But a warning: The opening scenes are laced with the unedited profanities of pumped-up Marines in the field.

So what is daily life like on the battlefield? It is, of course, an old-fashioned mix of high anxiety and tedium that is familiar to fighting troops everywhere. But there are wholly modern elements to counterinsurgent warfare now. Such as unexpected

comfort, which creates its own unexpected miseries. Marines of this unit, based at Twentynine Palms, Calif., arrived here believing they would live in tents, and at first they did. But they moved, and except for protracted field operations, they now live in small cities of 8- by 20-foot sheet-metal containers, "cans," complete with individual room air conditioning, electric lights, full-size beds and whatever furniture they can scrounge.

"We never thought we'd live like this," Marines say a little sheepishly.

On the other hand, electricity is notoriously unreliable. When the cans lose power, the scorching sun quickly makes them suffocating and unsuitable, and Marines begin yearning for tents again.

Chow time, the most important ritual to mark the passing of the time, is likewise better than expected — hot meals with typically two and sometimes three choices of standard institutional fare.

Above all else, the single most prevalent fact of life for American troops in Iraq this summer is 1.5-liter plastic bottles of water, imported from throughout the Middle East.

Water is both a savior and a tyranny. Troops carry bottles in their hands, they hold their Humvees with them, they pour bottled into Camelbaks and walk around with the hookah-stems clenched in their teeth. Exerting themselves under the weight of flak jackets and Kevlar helmets in the midday sun, troops must consume a quart of water or more each hour — three gallons a day — to keep from dehydrating, a chore made more difficult when some of the water is the temperature of coffee.

Much is reported about the 113-concrete-125-degree heat, the blowing sand, the floury and choking dust. But Marines also enjoy 80-degree dawns that can only be described as balmy.

"I sit outside in the mornings and the birds are chirping and the breeze is nice and cool. It doesn't get any better than that," says 1st Sgt. Harrison Tanksley of Thomson, Ga. "A couple of hours later, the sun is up, burning, and that brings you back to reality."

John Balzar is traveling with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

Mother pushes media to cover return of son's remains

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The mother of a U.S. soldier killed in Iraq invited news coverage of the arrival of her son's flag-draped casket at Sacramento International Airport — in contrast with Pentagon policy banning photographs of the coffins of dead military personnel on military facilities.

Nearly a dozen reporters, photographers and television crews were present when the coffin of Army Sgt. Patrick McCaffrey, 34, was transferred to a hearse outside a cargo terminal late Sunday. Nadia McCaffrey, who opposes the Iraq war, said her son "did not die for nothing. The way he lived needs to be talked about."

Patrick was not a fighter, he was a peacemaker," she told the Los Angeles Times.

While she said the invitation to the media wasn't a political protest, she planned to continue speaking out against the war.

"This is enough," she told the Times. "We have to react."

Patrick McCaffrey and another soldier, both members of the California National Guard's 579th Engineer Battalion, were killed June 22 in an ambush.

Citing privacy concerns, the military bans photographs and visual recordings of returning remains.

Critics say the policy makes it harder for citizens to understand the reality and costs of war.

Debate over whether the public should see the coffins of war dead flared in April when The Seattle Times published a front-page photograph of caskets in a cargo plane in Kuwait and a First Amendment activist posted on his Web site dozens of similar images from Dover, Del., site of the nation's largest military mortuary.

The coverage of Patrick McCaffrey's return did not violate the policy because of where the coffin was, officials said.

A funeral was scheduled Thursday in McCaffrey's hometown of Tracy.

In addition to helping his fellow soldiers as a medic, McCaffrey worked to help civilians in Iraq, his mother said.

She told ABC TV that he concentrated on children because "they don't have anything — there is no running water, no electricity or food. So he was giving whatever he could."



ROBERT DURELL, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES-AP

Members of a National Guard honor guard carry the flag-draped coffin of Sgt. Patrick McCaffrey at Sacramento International Airport on Monday in Sacramento, Calif. McCaffrey was killed June 22 along with 1st Lt. Andre Tyson, both members of the 579th Engineer Battalion, when the two were ambushed by insurgents near Balad, Iraq. McCaffrey's mother invited news coverage of the arrival of her son's casket.

Horoscope

We're headed for the full moon in Capricorn on Friday, which will bring an emotional release from all this tension. For now, try not to blow your top at anyone — this is all petty stuff masquerading as something terribly important. For that reason, it's best not to make any decisions in the heat of the moment. Everything happens different later.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 30). Winning is what you do best this year.

Consistent efforts to improve an important relationship will be rewarded. Believe the best about loved ones, and that's what they show you. January is a new start — focus on spiritual as well as financial issues, and you'll have a troubled area of your life.

Special romantic partnerships include Aquarius or Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Breaking the rules will give you a thrill. You'll have good company in your rebellion, too, as some rules are just begging to be broken. You could even be the "sensible one" — nobody's ever accused you of that before.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

With great pride, you'll track something big off your list. Make a new goal immediately to avoid that old Napoleon depression. Remember how he cried when he thought there were no more worlds to conquer?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

In this generally high-toned day, give your best energy to you — that means going straight to task, no socializing or meandering. You could make the impression that puts you in the big leagues! Romance takes effort tonight.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Your heart gets lugged in alternately sensible and stupid directions. Thoughtful, sacred silences are necessary to sort this out. It's not what you say anyway but how able you are to follow through on those words that matters.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A close friend encourages you to display your talent and may even help

finance your efforts. Set deadlines. Putting a stop to procrastination is your key to happiness. You'll be attracted to the "bad" girl or boy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You realize that you're not going to get the career boost you'd like without becoming a different person, at least in some small way. Transformation can be a long, drawn-out process, but not for you and not today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Originality emanates from you, and you see the world from a slightly cockeyed point of view. Start a trend. Identify your friends who are the most connected, social and outgoing, and sell your idea to them first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Do your own thing, and make others happy in the process. How often does that happen? More than you know. You're open to exploring a relationship that seemed like a bad idea just yesterday. It may still be a bad idea.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a brave mood, and your stoic stance is rewarded, especially if auditions or interviews are part of the plan today. If you need a recommendation, you can get an outstanding one from a former employer or mentor now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Events occurring in your heart are both distracting and wonderful. Passion makes you feel totally alive — and a little out of control, too. You'll get the chance to explore options that were too expensive before.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You're ready to rest, but press on, soldier — you'll do much for your cause. You've got excellent taste — worldly and eclectic — and you could be asked for your critical opinion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

It's obvious what's not working, and it's going to be very hard to take a neutral attitude about it.

Confront the problem. Start by owning your part. Begin by loving until you find one who thinks the sun rises and sets with you.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



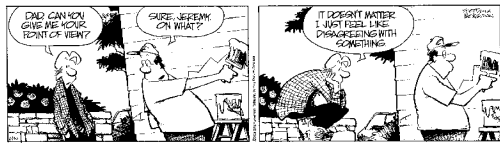
Calvin and Hobbes



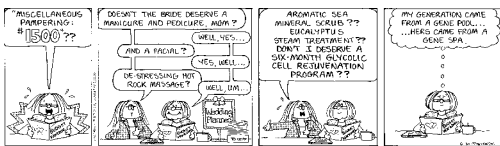
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



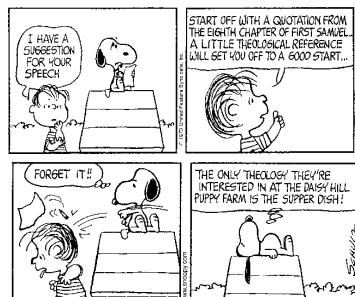
Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



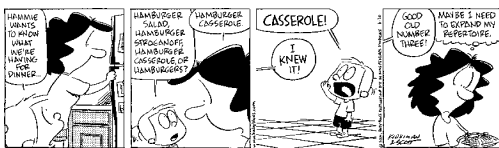
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



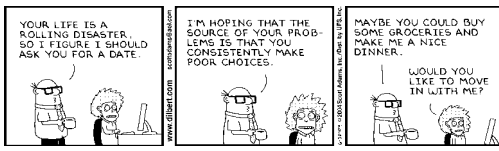
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



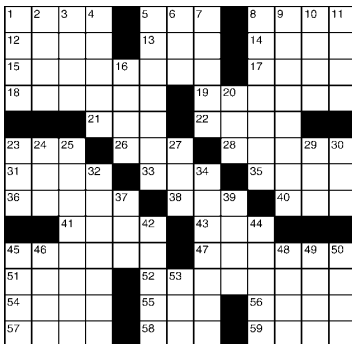
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



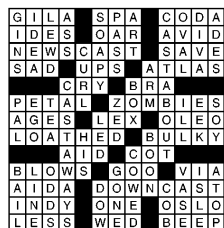
Across

- 1 Dessert choice
- 5 Land's prominence
- 8 Puts together
- 12 Strong as —
- 13 "Home of the brave"
- 14 Journey
- 15 Temporary expedients
- 17 Writer Morrison
- 18 Modeling exec
- 19 Earl Grey's place
- 21 Wahine's gift
- 22 Actor Estrada
- 23 Gram, case
- 26 Pigs' dogs
- 28 Liveliness, in music
- 31 Section of London
- 33 Deluge refuge
- 35 Check bag codes
- 36 Skier's place
- 38 Sun, speech
- 40 Bartle's ex
- 41 Rose or Rozelle
- 43 Verily
- 45 Loosen, in a way
- 47 Equal portions
- 51 Boulder
- 52 Bypass the cashier
- 54 State
- 55 The Carrington fortune
- 56 Stud fee?
- 57 Places
- 58 Born
- 59 Egg container

Down

- 1 Docket entry
- 2 Con
- 3 Rapper — Moe
- 4 Doe
- 4 Oust
- 5 Hall of "South Pacific"
- 6 Cleo's slayer
- 7 Squander
- 8 Gals
- 9 Rugby tactic
- 10 Pebbles' pet
- 11 Skewer
- 12 Right-turn signals
- 20 Historic period
- 23 Balaram's ride
- 24 Sanders' title (Abbr.)
- 25 Chinese menu item
- 27 Cen. parts
- 29 West of Hollywood
- 30 Abby's sis
- 32 Jacks or better, usually
- 34 Peep's place
- 37 LAX info
- 39 Harvest
- 42 Big name in printers and scanners
- 44 The A in E.A.P.
- 45 Caspian Sea feeder
- 46 Smoked salmon
- 48 Tarzan's transport
- 49 Small salamanders
- 50 Proofreader's notation
- 53 Waste not a moment

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-30

CRYPTOQUIP

R D X N G B L E B P Q C G R V
O F R O F X S X L P H L R
N X G O R P N R L O D N B W H C X G

SR LV WHOOOX GOROHGOHEG.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF YOU'VE SOLVED SUNBATHING DILEMMAS, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE FOUND TANNING SOLUTIONS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals T

SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

(All times Central European, AFN: AFN Sports; PAC: AFN-Pacific/Rock; AFN Sports; det: delayed; 2-hour or 90-minute cut-down. Listings are latest available from AFN Sports and subject to change without notice.)

Television

Baseball — Baltimore at Kansas City, noon Tuesday (d), SPT; Detroit at Tampa, 1 p.m. Wednesday, SPT; Chicago White Sox at St. Louis, 3 p.m. Wednesday, AFN-A; Anaheim at Oakland, 4 a.m. Wednesday, SPT; San Francisco at Los Angeles, 10 a.m. Wednesday (d), SPT; Texas at Seattle, 2 p.m. Wednesday, (d), SPT.
Baseball — White, Indiana at Washington, 2 p.m. Friday, July 2, SPT.
Baseball — Baltimore vs. Tampa, 7 a.m. Tuesday (d), SPT.
Golf — U.S. Women's Open: Preview, 3:30 p.m. Tuesday (d), June 30, SPT.
Metrosports — NBA: Stars National, 9 a.m. Tuesday (d), SPT; American Le Mans Series, 9 a.m. Thursday, (d), SPT; **STONED** — Bassmaster Elite 50, 9 a.m. Wednesday (d), SPT.
Baseball — Professional Bull Riding, 4 a.m. Friday, July 2, SPT, and 7 a.m. Saturday, July 3, (d), SPT.
Tennis — Wimbledon 2004: Women's quarterfinals, 10 a.m. Wednesday, SPT; 1 a.m. Wednesday (d), AFN-A men's quarterfinals, 10 a.m. Thursday, (d), SPT; women's quarterfinals, 8 a.m. Thursday, (d), SPT; 2 p.m. Friday, July 2, (d), both SPT.
AFN News — 444 AFN-A: Click on "television" or "radio" for latest schedule. AFN's parent company, California, is located at 1200 S. Main St., San Jose, Calif., can be reached at (408) 346-1119 or commercial (408) 432-2313. Its Web site is www.afn.net.

Pro basketball

WNBA			
EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Charlotte	7	Pct	GB
Washington	6	53%	
Indiana	6	53%	
New York	7	53%	
Connecticut	7	50%	1 1/2
Washington	7	50%	1 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Seattle	7	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	6	53%	
Phoenix	6	53%	
Sacramento	6	53%	
Minnesota	5	38%	2 1/2
San Antonio	5	38%	2 1/2
Saturday's games			
Charlotte 46, Indiana 17			
New York 67, Seattle 62			
San Antonio 86, Phoenix 72, OT			
Houston 72, Washington 67			
Los Angeles 83, Minnesota 67			
Connecticut 74, Detroit 72			
Sacramento 62, Phoenix 57			
Monday's games			
No games scheduled			
Tuesday's games			
Indiana at Detroit			
Phoenix at Los Angeles			
New York at Los Angeles			
Wednesday's games			
Washington at Connecticut			
Houston at Minnesota			

Tennis

Wimbledon			
Tuesday			
At The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club			
Wimbledon, England			
Purses: \$178 million (Grand Slam)			
Surface: Grass-outdoor			
Singles			
Fourth round			
Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Tatiana Golovin (R), France, 6-2, 6-1			
Francesca Schiavone (R), Italy, def. Rita Grande, Italy, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2			
Farina Elia (14), Italy, 7-5, 6-3			
Jennifer Capriati (7), United States, def. Nadia Pietrangeli (10), Russia, 6-4, 6-2			
Quarterfinals			
Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def. Karolina Sprem, Croatia, 6-2, 6-2			

Maria Sharapova (13), Russia, def. Al Sujiyama (11), Japan, 5-7, 7-5, 6-1.

Second round

Wayne Black, and Kevin Ullyett (6), Zimbabwe, def. Andre Sa, and Flavio Seara, Brazil, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Third round
 Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden, and Todd Woodbridge, def. Rick Leach, and Brian MacPhie, United States, 3-6, 4-7, 6-2.
 Mark Woodcock, Bahamas, def. Daniel Nestor (5), Canada, def. Travis Parrott, and Vince Spadea, United States, 6-3, 6-2.

Women

Emmanuelle Gagliardi, Switzerland, and Roberta Vinci (15), Italy, def. Yulia Beygelimer, Ukraine, and Tatiana Poutchek, Belarus, 3-6, 6-2.
 Svetlana Kuznetsova and Elena Likhovtseva (2), Russia, def. Nathalie Dechy, France, and Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-2.

Mixed

Leos Friedl, Czech Republic, and Janette Husárová (12), Slovakia, def. Jonathan Marmier, and Amanda Jeanes, Britain, 6-3, 6-4.
 Leander Paes, India, and Martina Navratilova (9), United States, def. Sebastian Prieto, Argentina, and Emmanuelle Gagliardi, Switzerland, 6-2, 6-3.

Wednesday's schedule

Centre Court

Serena Williams (1), United States, vs. Jennifer Capriati (7), United States
 Tim Henman (5), Britain, vs. Mario Ancic, Croatia

Outer Court

Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, vs. Lleyton Hewitt (7), Australia
 Amelie Mauresmo (4), France, vs. Paula Suarez (9), Argentina
 Andre Agassi (12), Netherlands, vs. Andre Rodick (2), United States
 Andre Agassi (12), Netherlands, vs. Andy Roddick (2), United States
 Grojman (10), France

Note Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Dallas's games

D.C. United 1, Dallas 1 tie

New England 2, MetroStars 1

Kansas City 1, San Jose 1 tie

Los Angeles 1, Chicago 0

Colorado 2, MetroStars 3

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Warren Bennett, England 77-65-137

Failed to qualify

Doobles

Rob Rashed, United States 71-65-137

Mark Pilkington, Wales 67-11-37

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Toughest test of golf's top woman

Sorenstam winless in past seven Opens

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

Annika Sorenstam had every reason to believe the toughest test of golf would always be the easiest to win.

Playing like she had nothing to lose, Sorenstam wound up winning the U.S. Women's Open for her first LPGA Tour victory in 1995. A year later, she missed only five fairways the entire week and shot 66 in the final round to win by six strokes, setting a Women's Open scoring record of 272.

"I thought, 'Oh, I can do this. This is a piece of cake,'" Sorenstam said. "At the time, it felt easy because I won two in a row. The U.S. Open is the biggest tournament we have, and the last time I won by [six shots] at Pine Needles."

"But then I started to put a lot of pressure on myself. I wanted it too badly. And I got in my own way."

Seven years later, the Women's Open was not the one tournament she can't seem to win.

Sorenstam has gone through an amazing transformation since winning those back-to-back Open titles. The shy Swede known as "Miss Manners" has become one of the most dominant players in LPGA history with a list of feats that rank her among the best ever.

■ The first woman to shoot 59 and break the \$2 million barrier.

■ The first woman in 45 years to play on the PGA Tour, which gave her first-name celebrity around the world.

■ Career Grand Slam.

■ Infection into the Hall of Fame at the ripe age of 33.

The only thing missing during her meteoric rise in golf is the trophy that matters the most. Even Sorenstam is perplexed by what has taken her so long to add another U.S. Women's Open title to her collection.

"I've always felt so comfort-

Women's Open at a glance

Facts and figures for the 59th U.S. Women's Open.

Dates: July 1-4
Site: Orchards Golf Club

The course, designed by Donald Ross, is owned by former-female-motocrosser Michelle Wie and 17-year-old Paula Creamer, both of whom already have shown they can hold their own against a tough test.

Length: 6,473 yards; **Par:** 36-35-71

Format: 72 holes, stroke play

Cut: Top 60 and ties, and anyone within 10 strokes of the lead after 36 holes

Playoff, if necessary: 18 holes (stroke play) on July 5

Purse: \$3.1 million

Winner's share: \$560,000

Defending champion: Hilary Lunke

Last year: Hilary Lunke became the first qualifier to win the U.S. Women's Open, holding a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole of an 18-hole playoff to defeat Angela Stanford and Kelly Robbins at Pumpkin Ridge. Lunke shot 1-under 70 in the playoff, while Stanford had a 71 and Robbins shot 73. They finished regulation at 283. Annika Sorenstam had a chance to win with a birdie on the par-3 18th but hit 4-wood into the trees and made bogey to miss the playoff.

Noteworthy: Michelle Wie, 14, is the youngest player ever to receive an exemption to a U.S. Open.

Outcry: "It's bigger than anything I've ever gotten a lot of extra air after. After 18 years, I still have that great feeling on the U.S. Open," — Meg Mallon.

able. I've always felt prepared. I always expected to win," she says. "I've got a lot of extra air after. After 18 years, I still have that great feeling on the U.S. Open," — Meg Mallon.

"I don't think about the trophy or money. I know the course are not always going to be low in the majors."

Sorenstam gets another chance to end her seven-year drought in the U.S. Women's Open this week at Orchards Golf Club. She suffered Ross design on the campus of Mount Holyoke in South Hadley, Mass.

She will be the heavy favorite, as usual, especially after outlasting the field during a 36-hole final round to win the LPGA Championship for her seventh major and 52nd career victory.

Competition comes from all shapes and sizes.

Grace Park this year's first major in the Kraft Nabisco, denying Sorenstam her only stated goal of sweeping the majors this year. And the teen parade is stronger than ever, led by 14-year-old Michelle Wie and 17-year-old Paula Creamer, both of whom already have shown they can hold their own against a tough test.

Along with being a tough test because the USGA wants it that way, there is built-in pressure with a \$3.1 million purse, more than double the typical prize money on the LPGA Tour.

"The Open separates itself from any other tournament," said Meg Mallon, who won the Open at Colonial in 1991. "No other tournament affects your year like that one."

For Hilary Lunke, it changed her life.

A year ago at Pumpkin Ridge in Oregon, the short-hitting Lunke shocked everyone by winning on the longest course in Sorenstam's Open history. She relied heavily on her bouquet of fairway metals, all the way up to an 11-wood, and made just about every putt to get into a playoff and then beat Angela Stanford and Kelly Robbins.

Lunke earned \$94,600 in 25 events on the LPGA Tour, and \$560,000 from the Women's Open.

"Pretty much my world was swept upside down last July in a great way," Lunke said. "My game suffered a lot last year right after the Open. I was just mentally and physically drained."

Sorenstam was seething, especially after she threw away a chance to win the Open.

Only one shot out of the lead, Sorenstam crushed her drive on the par-3 18th and had only a 4-wood left to the green. All she needed was a birdie to win the Open, but disaster unfolded with one swing.

Her 4-wood sailed right toward the trees and landed next to a portable toilet. After a free drop, she



Annika Sorenstam has ruled women's golf the past three years at the same time the Women's Open has become her greatest disappointment.

chipped into the bunker, failed to get up-and-down and made bogey to miss the playoff by one shot.

"I have a tendency when I get quick to putt it right, and that's what happened," Sorenstam said.

But it wasn't that shot. I had so many chances through the back nine. Even though it came down to the last hole, those are the things that you remember."

She hasn't forgotten two years ago, either, when Sorenstam looked like a shoo-in at Prairie Dunes in Kansas. She had a two-shot lead going into the final round and shot even-par 70, the kind of final round by a leader that almost always wins the Women's Open — just not that year.

Julie Inkster put together one of the best rounds of her life, a 4-under-66, to win by two.

"Julie just beat me. She had an incredible back nine," Sorenstam said. "Last year, I felt like I had a

good chance. I made a bad swing on the 18th hole and started to question myself. 'Am I too aggressive?'"

"But at least I'm close, and I have a chance now."

Inkster, who also has won seven majors and will try to become the oldest Women's Open champion at 44, paid Sorenstam the highest tribute in the LPGA Championship.

"I never played with Mickey Wright," Inkster said, referring to the woman regarded by many as the best ever. "But she [Sorenstam] is awfully good. She's down the middle. She's on the green. She's good."

That's the kind of golf that usually wins the U.S. Women's Open.

And that's what makes it so peculiar that Sorenstam, the best in women's golf by a mile over the past three years, has had to wait so long to add another trophy to her collection.

Defending champion Lunke regaining her balance

BY DONNA TOMMELEO
The Associated Press

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass. — Success didn't spoil Hilary Lunke, but it nearly ruined her game.

The biggest tournament in women's golf remains the only victory in her professional career. A year ago, Lunke cooly sank a 15-foot putt on the 90th hole of the U.S. Women's Open to win a three-way playoff and become the first qualifier to capture the trophy.

The dramatic victory catapulted Lunke's name among golf's elite.

But she nearly got swallowed up in the whirlwind of attention that followed.

"I said yes to everything that was asked of me in the first week and was completely worn out," she said. "I just didn't really know

how to balance that with the other things that are going on in my life. I just needed a big break."

The offseason gave her time to work on that balance. Slowly, Lunke said, she has learned how to handle it just in time to defend a title she never expected to win.

Despite not having any top-10 finishes this season, Lunke, 25, said the next few months offered the most — putting — is starting to come around.

"I struggled with my putting absolutely horribly," she said. "I feel like my game is better than it was last year and I'm hopeful to defend my title. I didn't go into the U.S. Open last year with the aim to win it. I went in hoping to have a good week."

What a week it turned out to be.

Lunke is among the shortest hitters on the LPGA Tour, yet her game proved to be a good fit on

the longest U.S. Women's Open course ever at Pumpkin Ridge, where the fairways were hard and fast.

"She was the only one who thought she could win, and even after her dramatic birdie putt on the 18th hole of the Monday playoff, it still didn't sink in for everyone involved."

"I honestly thought I had won," said Angela Stanford, who finished second along with Kelly Robbins. "It wasn't until we started playing the end-of-the-year events and Hilary was always there with me. She was always introduced as 'U.S. Women's Open champion,' and I thought, 'OK, wait a minute. That's not me.'"

It didn't take Lunke that long to realize what had happened.

"The whole week my cell phone was clogged up with messages, night and day," Lunke said.

She showed up with her next event in Vancouver to register, thinking it was just another day.

Not a chance.

There were reporters everywhere, writing down everything about me, what I was wearing," she recalled. "I hadn't showered. It was pretty much nonstop press conferences."

But the U.S. Open title also opened doors and provided some security for Lunke and husband and caddy, Tyler, who married 11 months before the Open. The newlyweds put her \$560,000 winner's paycheck to good use. Weary of paying rent, they bought a home a week before the Open even though they knew that making the mortgage was going to be a stretch each month.

"It couldn't have come at a better time. It made a nice place for us to go home to," she said.

Lunke acknowledges there's more pressure on her now than ever before and she's been trying to separate herself from it by keeping her attitude light.

"I am the same person and the same player that I was at this time one year ago. I wasn't a person who was expected to go on and win major championships," she said. "But I respect the position I'm in and making sure I'm working as hard as I can to defend my title."

And if she doesn't, Lunke figures she's already ahead of the game.

Her only goal when she joined the tour in 2002 was to win one tournament, to have one week that would always be special no matter what happened the rest of her career.

"And to have that week be the U.S. Women's Open and in the fashion that it happened, I would be absolutely content," she said.

Blalock leads Rangers' barrage in Seattle

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Alfonso Soriano is having the time of his baseball life, and so are the astounding Texas Rangers.

They hit five home runs Monday night in an 8-5 victory over the Seattle Mariners, grabbed a 2½-game lead over Oakland, and moved three ahead of Anaheim in the AL West.

"Nobody [thought] this team would be in first place right now," said Soriano, who contributed his 12th homer to the team that finished last in the division for four straight seasons. "I'm having so much fun right now with this team."



Hank Blalock led the Texas power barrage with a pair of homers, and Kevin Mench and Mark Teixeira also homered against the last-place Mariners.

Soriano came to the Rangers on Feb. 16 in the trade that sent Alex Rodriguez to the Yankees. In the spring, everybody picked Texas to finish last again.

"We have a lot of young players," Soriano said. "But they're good players, and we play hard every night."

The Rangers might be young, but they knew they were going to have a lot of power. So their home surge at pitcher-friendly Safeco Field didn't surprise them. "When you have guys like Hank who have great power, they can hit balls out of any ballpark," Texas shortstop Michael Young said.

When the Rangers finished last in 2003, they were 28-53 from home. They're 18-18 away from home this season and gaining con-



Rangers Hank Blalock, left, and Michael Young celebrate after Blalock's second home run of the game in Seattle on Monday. Both are playing a key role in Texas' resurgence after four straight years finishing last.

vidence.

"Before, we used to feel very comfortable at home and we'd just try to go out and battle on the road," Young said. "Now we're starting to feel like we can make adjustments and have good at-bats regardless of where we're playing."

The Rangers beat the Mariners for the seventh straight time this season and eighth of 10 overall.

Young is hitting .327 after going 2-for-6, while Blalock is hit-

ting .315. They're beginning to get noticed.

"Young and Blalock might be as good as two players as there are in the American League. And they're getting better," Mariners manager Bob Melvin said.

Texas won a day after its season-high eight-game winning streak was stopped by Houston. The Mariners have lost six of seven.

The Rangers are 13 games over

500 for the second time this season. After 73 games last season, Texas trailed first-place Seattle by 2½ games and were 19 under .500.

Blalock had his 19th and 20th home runs to the Boston's Manny Ramirez for the AL lead. It was his third career two-homer game and second of the season.

"He's having an incredible year," Young said of Blalock. "Hank's a great hitter. He's a

smart hitter. He's got a good plan every time he comes to the plate. When you combine that with his great natural talent, you're going to have a dominant hitter."

Seattle's Ryan Franklin (3-6) gave up four homers and five runs in five innings. In all, he allowed eight hits and three walks, while striking out four. Franklin is 0-3 with a 12.46 ERA against Texas this season.

"Every pitch they hit out, they should have hit out," he said.

Devil Rays 10, Blue Jays 2: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Victor Zambrano pitched six solid innings to win his fifth straight decision, and Tampa Bay earned its 16th victory in 18 games.

Geoff Blum and Jose Cruz Jr. homered in support of Zambrano (8-4), who hasn't lost in nine starts since May 15.

Tampa Bay improved to a major league-best 27-8 since May 20 and climbed back over .500 (37-36) two days after becoming the first team in major league history to get above the break-even point after being 18 games below.

Roy Halladay (6-5) allowed seven runs on eight hits in five innings — his shortest outing of the season.

Orioles 10, Royals 1: David Newhan had three hits, including a two-run homer, and the Orioles snapped a seven-game road losing streak.

Rookie left-hander Erik Bedard (3-2) pitched 6½ shutout innings for the Orioles, and Brian Roberts and Rafael Toribio and Javy Lopez each drove in two runs.

The Royals dropped to a season-low 17 games under .500, the worst in the league. They've lost five straight and are struggling in trading center fielder Carlos Beltran to Houston.



The Phillies' David Bell watches his sixteenth single against the Expos. Bell also had a double in the second inning, a three-run home run in the fourth, and a disputed triple in the seventh to hit for the cycle.

Bell's cycle, six RBIs take toll on Expos

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The art of hitting for the cycle skipped a generation in the Bell family.

David Bell hit for the cycle and drove in a career-high six runs, powering the Philadelphia Phillies to a 14-6 victory Monday night over the Montreal Expos.

Bell doubled in the second inning, homered in the fourth, singled in the sixth and hit a disputed triple in the seventh to complete the feat also accomplished by his grandfather, Gus, who did it for Pittsburgh on June 4, 1951.

But the cycle eluded David's father, Buddy, the Cleveland Indians' bench coach who played 18 seasons in the majors.

When asked if he planned to call his father to playfully mock him, David said: "Yeah. Yeah, I will." Then he added, "It's special because it just doesn't happen."

With three legs of the cycle behind him, Bell drove a 2-2 pitch off Rocky Biddle to left-center that appeared to deflect off the outreached hands of a fan in the first row. The ball caromed toward center field and away from Montreal's Brad Wilkerson.

Bell went into third base and received a standing ovation from the crowd. But Wilkerson and Montreal manager Frank Robinson protested the call for several minutes. The umpires convened and allowed the three-base hit to stand.



"The second-base ump [Jerry Meals] said he thought it hit a fan, but wasn't sure," an unhappy Robinson said. "[But] the ump at third

[Jack Samuels] said, 'My call.'"

It was Bell's first triple of the season and first since joining the Phillies before last year.

"I don't hit many triples," Bell said. "But when it hits off that wall out there, triples can happen quite a bit here."

Bell became the third major league player to hit for the cycle this season. Milwaukee's Chad Moeller did it April 27, and Daryle Ward of the Pittsburgh Pirates became the second on May 27.

Pat Burrell homered, scored three runs and drove in three, and Bobby Abreu went 3-for-3 with two doubles and a pair of walks to reach base in all five plate appearances.

Kevin Millwood (6-5) won despite allowing three homers. He gave up five runs and five hits in six innings, but struck out a season-high nine.

Millwood improved to 10-4 in his past 11 starts against Montreal. His last loss to the Expos was August 28, 2001, with Atlanta.

Padres 10, Diamondbacks 5: Brian Giles and Humberto Quintero homered to help David Wells (3-5) win for the first

time in almost two months.

Mark Loretta had four of San Diego's season-high-tying 17 hits, and the visiting Padres sent the Diamondbacks to their franchise-record 10th straight loss — longest in the majors this season.

Shane Reynolds (0-1) allowed six runs on six hits in two innings.

Pirates 2, Cardinals 1: Jack Wilson turned an apparent double play in the bottom of the ninth into the game-winning run and the host Pirates, held hitless into the seventh by Jeff Suppan, rallied to win.

Wilson hit a drive down the left-field line for his NL-long 104th hit and hit out in the ninth against Julian Tavarez (2-1) and, after realizing no one was covering second, kept running on the play.

First baseman Albert Pujols moved over to host off the throw and appeared to have time to get Wilson at third. But his throw sailed wide of the bag and out of play, sending Wilson home.

Braves 6, Marlins 1: John Thomson (6-6) won for the first time in nearly a month and J.D. Drew homered to help the Braves beat the visiting Marlins in a game delayed almost 3½ hours by rain before the start.

Brad Penny 7-6 gave up five runs in nine hits in five innings for Florida, which dropped into a first-place tie in the NL East with Philadelphia.

Mitts: Pros not the only ones in love with gloves

MITTS, FROM BACK PAGE

"I still have it," said Kaat, now a Yankees broadcaster. "If you throw it on the floor, no one would even pick it up. It's got friction tape on the back. The trainer used to sew it up. But you get comfortable with it, like an old pair of jeans."

In a 1990 Sports Illustrated article on mitts titled (as many in the genre are) "Glove Story," former player and manager Phil Garner went so far as to say, "Players become sexually attached to their glove," an assertion for which we offer no proof, or even comment.

But we have heard of players who put their gloves under their mattress, or even under their pillows, at night.

Larry Duncan, proprietor of Duncan and Sons, the leather shop that has been called upon for many an emergency repair job on Mariners gloves over the years, attests to the ardent attachment to their gloves.

"Put it under the heading of superstitious extensions of the hand," he said.

On the Mariners, Scott Spiezio and Aurilia have used their gloves for years, and it shows in the cracks and fraying on the palms. Just last year, the team had to make a quick patch job on Spiezio's mitt to have it ready for a road trip.

Now, mind you, not all players are so fanatical about their gloves.

Former Twins shortstop Zoilo Versalles used to throw his away at each error (eventually alienating his glove company so much he had to go to sporting-goods stores to replenish his supply).

Last year, Yankees pitcher David Wells used a new glove for each of his starts, putting the discarded one for sale on his Web site to raise money for charity. But Wells, considered by many to be the greatest fielding shortstop of all time, changed his mitt every six months. And while many players are incredibly finicky and precise about how they break in their glove, Barry Bonds takes his out of the box, puts it on his hand and is ready to play.

"I haven't broken in a glove for years," Bonds told the Orlando Sentinel in the mid-1990s.

Another superb defender, Omar Vizquel, had such uncharacteristic fielding problems early this season that his teammates took it upon themselves to "sacrifice" the offending glove, which Omar had borrowed from teammate Zach Sorenson. The scene inspired by the movie "Major League," they constructed an altar containing the glove, a bottle of wine, a hanging roast chicken, a Budlike figure, 14 candles, incense, two rosaries and a baseball with the words is killed" written on it.

However, Rawlings representative Jim Hughes, who has spent 22 years as the liaison between the company and its



Boston Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra can be seen checking the extra-long laces on his baseball glove as he stands in the field.

major-league clients, believes that today's players are not as fanatical about their equipment.

"Young kids get so much free stuff, it doesn't mean as much," he said. "It's almost a throwaway society."

It's not just major-leaguers who have a reverential attachment to their glove, a fact verifiable by anyone who has ever owned a glove — a demographic that includes almost all males of any age, and an increasing number of women.

Glove repairmen, invariably called "doctors," can tell a zillion stories of customers bringing in their old childhood mitt in hopes of restoring it, often to pass it on to their child.

"It's hard to figure how it becomes something magical, but it does," said Bronx-based John Golomb, aka "The Sports Doctor," who produces custom-made gloves. "The transformation is remarkable. Your dad gave you a glove, or you got it as a Christmas gift, and it becomes the glove of your life."

Kevin Johnson of Sports Artifacts, a major dealer of vintage gloves, still gets a boyish excitement when he runs across an especially evocative model at a garage sale or flea market.

"It's like finding gold," he said. "You see that beautiful leather, and it's like gold shining in the sun."

The first President Bush, a former Yale first baseman, kept his old Rawlings "Trapper Claw"

glove in the desk drawer of the Oval Office, often putting it on to pound on the pocket while listening to an adviser.

"A glove evokes a nostalgic memory," said Liberman. "You associate it with the freedom of youth, the warmth of summer and everything else."

Like John Fogerty's mythical center fielder, all you need is a "beat-up glove, a homemade bat and a brand-new pair of shoes" to give the game a ride. In the 19th century, however, the use of a glove was considered the province of weaklings.

"Padding hands like that to prevent injuries or not feel pain was an unmanly act," said Eric Strohl, the assistant curator of history and research at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. "The first experiences were made fun of and derided."

Inevitably, however, glove use eventually caught on, their acceptance hastened by the advent of overhand pitching in the latter 1800s.

"Like all things American, the urge to win eventually overran personal pride," Strohl said. "Players said, 'It's OK if people make fun of us as long as we win.'"

Strohl said that Hall of Fame inductees who tour the museum are invariably most fascinated by the display of old gloves, with one universal reaction: "How in God's name did they play ball with those things?"

Glove historians point to two epochal moments in glove advancement — the Bill Doak model by Rawlings in 1920, the first with a rudimentary pocket, and the Wilson A-2000 model in 1957, considered the prototype of the modern glove. Of the latter, Fleet said, "We were facing East! As far as I'm concerned, it's the creme de la creme."

Edu Vanni, the legendary former Seattle Rainier player, now 85, marvels at the size of the modern glove.

"Today, you could put three skulls and a sports coat in the glove," he said. "Back in the old days, you'd think we were a broke man on the Great Northhorn."

He said the mitt "a part of your soul."

And it smells good, too.

Montgomerye gets into British Open

The Associated Press

SUNNINGDALE, England — Colin Montgomery survived a 12-man playoff to earn a trip to his home course at Royal Troon, while Luke Donald of England was among 15 players who qualified for the British Open from a surprisingly short field at Congressional.

It was the first time the British Open had qualifying around the world in an effort to give more players a chance to play golf's oldest championship.

Montgomery was among a dozen players competing for six spots in a sudden-death playoff and he got in after the second hole. It was a rare bright spot for the former world No. 2, who is going through a divorce and has slipped out of the top 50 in the world for the first time in over a decade.

Among those who failed to qualify were former Masters champions Bernhard Langer, Jose Maria Olazabal and Ian Woosnam, along with Justin Rose and Jesper Parnevik.

Donald, who plays the PGA Tour in a regular basis, gave his fledgling Ryder Cup hopes a boost by qualifying at Congressional in Bethesda, Md.

Mathias Gronberg held a bunker shot on eagle on No. 10, sending him to a 31 on the back nine of the famed Blue Course at Congressional to share medalist honors with Carl Peterson and Spike McKay at 9-under 11.

Others who qualified at Congressional were former PGA champion Steve Elkington; Rod Pampling; Bo Van Der Merwe; Gagan; Tim Herron; Hunter Mahan; Aaron Baddeley; Skip Kendall; Glen Day; Bob Estes; and Cameron Beckman.

Montgomerye, a seven-time Order of Merit winner in Europe, missed the U.S. Open because his ranking was too low and risked missing the British Open for the first time since 1989. He now has high hopes for Royal Troon, where his father was the longtime club secretary.

"Now I should have a realistic chance," he said. "I know every blade of grass there."

FSU, family of player that died in 2001 on \$2M settlement

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A judge approved a \$2 million settlement Monday between Florida State and the family of Devaughn Darling, a football player who died during an offseason workout in 2001.

The state will issue a check for the statutory limit of \$200,000 to the Darling family, who may petition the Legislature for the remaining \$1.8 million. The family must file a claim by Aug. 1 to have it considered during the 2005 legislative session.

The claim will be supported by the university under terms of the agreement approved by Circuit Judge L. Ralph Smith. The parties agreed to mediation last Nov. 26, 2001, of an apparent "cardiac arrhythmia" at the age of 18.

Sports briefs

He was projected as a starting outside linebacker going into the 2001 spring practices.

Darling's family members, including parents Dennis Darling and Wendy Smith, sued the school in October 2002, claiming their son died despite complaining of dizziness and chest pains during a workout.

Judge orders arrest of Rison

ATLANTA — An arrest warrant has been issued for former NFL receiver Andre Rison, who owes \$184,787 in two states for overdue child support payments, attorney's fees and interest.

It is the fourth time an arrest warrant has been issued for Rison by DeKalb County Superior Court Judge Cynthia Becker for failing to pay child support.

The payments are collectively owed to his ex-wife in Southfield, Mich., and an ex-girlfriend in Atlanta. The Michigan lawsuit involves Rison's 16-year-old son, and the Atlanta case involves two sons, 16 and 19 years old.

Rison's Atlanta attorney, Max Richardson, said Monday his client is aware of his obligations in Atlanta, but may dispute the amount.

The NFL seasons with seven teams, Rison had 743 receptions for 10,205 yards. He last played in 2000 for Oakland.

Jaguars guard Naeole arrested after bar dispute

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Police used a Taser to subdue Jacksonville Jaguars guard Chris Naeole, who was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Naeole, 29, got into a shooting match with employees of the Ritz Bar in Jacksonville Beach as the bar was closing early Sunday, according to a police report. Despite a police officer's order to stop, Naeole lunged again at an employee, and the officer used the Taser on him.

Naeole, who is 6-foot-3 and about 320 pounds, was taken to the Duval County jail, and later released, a jail official said.

Dolphins TE McMichael charged with assaulting wife

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Miami Dolphins tight end Randy McMichael was arrested Tuesday for allegedly hitting his pregnant wife.

McMichael was charged with assault on a pregnant woman, a second-degree felony that is punishable by up to 15 years in prison, Broward County Sheriff's officials said.

His wife, Candice McMichael, was also arrested on a domestic battery charge stemming from the early Tuesday morning fight at their home. Both remained in Broward County Jail without bond Tuesday, and it was unknown when they would make their first court appearance.

The 6-foot-3, 247-pound McMichael has caught 85 passes for 1,083 yards and six touchdowns in two seasons with the Dolphins.

Seattle Mariners outfielder Ichiro Suzuki believes, which he faithfully does every night during the season.

Montgomery wants his case heard by international panel

BY JOSH DUBOW
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Tim Montgomery will go to an international arbitration panel to contest a possible lifetime ban sought by U.S. doping officials.

Montgomery's legal team informed the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency of its decision Monday to appeal to the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"We are taking this step because we believe that USA's conduct... has been so egregious as to remove any confidence that Tim could be fairly treated in this process," said Montgomery's attorney, Howard Gaines. "By turning to CAS, we hope that Tim will have the best opportunity to clear his name in a fair and impartial proceeding."

A decision by CAS' international arbitrators is final and can't be appealed.

Montgomery was one of four sprinters who received a letter last week informing them that USA's was seeking a lifetime ban. The others were Michelle Collins, the 2003 world indoor champion at 200 meters; Alvin Harrison, the 2003 Olympic 400-meter silver medalist; and Christine Gaines, a two-time Olympic relay medalist.

Gaines' attorney, Cameron Myler, did not return a call for comment Monday. An attorney for Collins said last week that he would seek an arbitration hearing.

Harrison's legal team asked last Friday for arbitration under the standard commercial rules of arbitration instead of USA's.

USA's rules provide for a smaller pool of possible arbitrators, including only those who have experience in these types of cases.

It also follows international rules on the definition of doping, the possible sanctions and the prohibited use of substances. The commercial rules don't spell out those standards.

Harrison's attorney, Edward Williams, tried a similar tactic with track standout Regina Jacobs, who tested positive for the steroid THG last year. Her lawsuit seeking to excuse her from USA's adjudication process is tied up in federal court.

"There was a long, legislative vetting process to determine why this is a decent and fair process," said Travis Tygart, USA's director of legal affairs. "Athletes in the U.S. have seen the international process last year, and this is an extremely fair and open process."

Of the 17 previous USA Olympic cases that were contested, arbitrators found a doping violation each time but sometimes came back with lesser punishments than the agency had given.

Williams also asked the U.S. Olympic Committee to investigate Harrison's case and clear him for competition in the Olympics.

Williams said USA's letter indicated the agency was seeking a lifetime ban because of Harrison's "involvement" with certain prohibited substances and unidentified "prohibited techniques."

The letter never alleged that Harrison tested positive or even took prohibited substances, according to Williams.

It's the first time the agency has filed charges against an athlete who has not failed or refused to take a drug test. USA has built its cases on evidence from the federal probe of the Bay Area laboratory Co-Operative, and hopes to have them wrapped up before the Athens Games open Aug. 13.

Star sprinter Marion Jones is also under scrutiny by USA, but has not received formal notification that she is the target of a probe. Jones, the mother of Montgomery's nearly 1-year-old son, won five medals in the 2000 Olympics.



American sprinter Jerome Young was found guilty of doping five years ago and should be stripped of his 2000 Olympic gold medal, the world's top sports court CAS in Lausanne ruled on Tuesday.

Sports court says Young should lose gold medal

The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — U.S. sprinter Jerome Young should be stripped of his Sydney Olympics relay gold medal for testing positive in 1999 for steroids, the world's top sports court ruled Tuesday.

But the Court of Arbitration for Sport did not issue an opinion on whether the rest of the U.S. 1,600-meter relay squad, including Michael Johnson, should have to forfeit their medals.

It's the final ruling in a case that pitted American track officials against their international counterparts and led to tension between U.S. sports bodies.

Track and field's world governing body now will decide whether

to recommend to the International Olympic Committee that the entire team be disqualified.

The IOC said in a statement that since it was not a party in the ruling, it would wait until the "IAAF informs us of their position on the matter."

Young tested positive for the steroid nandrolone in 1999 and was suspended from competition. But he was exonerated — avoiding a two-year ban — when a USA Track & Field appeals panel ruled that a clean test taken six days after the positive test raised a "reasonable doubt."

The arbitration court ruled that Young should have been banned from June 26, 1999 until June 25, 2001, making him ineligible for the 2000 Olympics.

Players union head says lockout possible in NBA

From combined dispatches

LAS VEGAS — Expressing pessimism after reviewing the NBA owners' initial collective bargaining proposal, the director of the players' union said Monday the league could be heading toward a work stoppage at the conclusion of the 2004-05 season.

Union director Billy Hunter addressed several dozen players at the union's annual meeting during a session devoted mainly to labor issues. His message was that history could very well repeat itself, with a distinct possibility there could be a lockout next summer.

"We don't come to this process as neophytes. We don't have the same kind of naivety that we had before," Hunter told the Associated Press. "The guys understand that the negotiations could ultimately result in another lockout, and they have to prepare themselves for that."

"If the owners are not inclined to retreat from their current proposal, there's a high probability there can be another lockout," Hunter said.

The league had the first work stoppage in its history six years ago, a lockout that began in July of 1998, lasted 191 days, cost both sides hundreds of millions of dollars and scarred a league at the pinnacle of its popularity.

Union members say the league has asked for numerous concessions in an initial proposal presented during two preliminary bargaining sessions held after the All-Star break. Owners are seeking a four-year maximum length for any contract, higher luxury tax rates for the teams with the largest payrolls and lower thresholds to trigger the luxury and escrow taxes.

"How would I describe the proposal? A

NBA briefs

step back," Hunter said. "In many ways it mirrors the proposal that was presented in 1998, a proposal that lasted at least five months and called for significant rollbacks and forced the players to dig in."

NBA Commissioner David Stern, upon hearing Hunter's remarks, took a conciliatory tone.

"I'm optimistic. I'm glad that the players are engaged and involved, because whenever you have people who understand the economics of a business thoroughly, you're more likely to reach an agreement," Stern said in a telephone interview.

Francis accepts trade for McGrady

The prospect of playing alongside high school star Dwight Howard and an easier road to the playoffs were enough to persuade Houston Rockets guard Steve Francis to drop his objections to a trade that would send him to the Orlando Magic for NBA scoring leader Tracy McGrady, according to his agent.

The Magic are expected to announce the trade, which was held up a week after Francis balked at playing for the first-place team, on Wednesday, according to a source with knowledge of the deal. Francis, a three-time All-Star, is flying to Orlando Tuesday to meet with the Magic's management, including General Manager John Weisbord, the man who persuaded Francis to move to Orlando.

Under the terms of the trade, the Magic will send guard McGrady, forward Juwan Howard and guard Tyronn Lue to the Rockets for Francis, guard Curtino Mobley and center Kelvin Cato, said the source.

Upon hearing news of the pending trade, Francis initially said he disliked the idea of playing for a team that was rebuilding. His representatives began making inquiries about which teams would be interested in swapping for Francis in the event he was traded to the Magic.

But in a Thursday night phone conversation, Weisbord said Francis on the team's draft acquisitions, playoff chances and appreciation of his talents, according to Jeff Fried, Francis's agent.

"They could have got anyone for Tracy McGrady," Fried said. "That impressed Steve about how highly the Magic thought of him."

The Magic chose Atlanta high school senior Howard, a 6-11 power forward, with the first pick in the draft. Scouts say Howard, a skilled scorer, shot blocker and rebounder, has the talent to become an NBA star.

The Magic also obtained St. Joseph's guard Jameer Nelson, the NCAA's player of the year last season, from the Denver Nuggets.

The addition of Francis, Howard and Nelson could help the team compete in the re-aligned NBA next season. The Magic will be in the same division, what many predict will be the league's weakest, with the Washington Wizards' Milt Heat, Atlanta Hawks and expansion Charlotte Bobcats.

Of the five teams, only the Heat made the playoffs last season.

Raptors hire Mitchell as head coach

TORONTO — Sam Mitchell was hired as coach of the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday.

Mitchell, who played in the NBA for 13 years, was an assistant coach for the expan-

sion Charlotte Bobcats for the past month.

Mitchell, who played for Minnesota and Indiana, spent two years as an assistant with the Milwaukee Bucks before leaving for Charlotte.

Mitchell was a candidate for the Raptors' job last season before it went to Kevin O'Neill, who was fired after a 33-49 season.

Earlier this month, the Raptors fired General Manager Glen Grunwald and replaced him with Rob Babcock, Minnesota's former vice president of player personnel.

The Raptors chose Mitchell over Seattle SuperSonics assistant Dwane Casey and Detroit Pistons assistant Mike Woodson.

Bobcats talk Brokaw to replace Mitchell

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Bobcats wasted no time replacing Sam Mitchell, hiring Gary Brokaw as their lead assistant coach Tuesday.

Brokaw, originally a candidate for Charlotte's general manager job, had been the Bobcats' director of player personnel. He takes over for Mitchell, who was hired as head coach of the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday.

Brokaw will continue some of his player personnel duties in a reduced role, while assistant general manager Karl Hicks will assume most of the responsibilities.

Warriors hire Elle as assistant

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Golden State Warriors hired Mario Elle as an assistant for new coach Mike Montgomery's staff.

Elle played two of his 11 NBA seasons with the Warriors, teaming up with Chris Mullin, the team's new executive vice president of basketball operations. He won three NBA titles in his career and served as an assistant in San Antonio last season.

Sereia, Carriati to meet in a quarterfinal showdown

Davenport, Sharapova, Mauresmo, Suarez prevail

BY STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Two-time defending champion Serena Williams served 12 aces — including one clocked at 126 mph — and overwhelmed 16-year-old Tatiana Golovin 6-2, 6-1 on Tuesday to advance to the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

Williams crushed the Russian-born French player in 55 minutes on Court to set up a marquee Grand Slam quarterfinal rematch against Jennifer Capriati.

Capriati, who defeated Nadia Petrova 6-4, 6-4 in another fourth-round match, beat Williams in the quarterfinals of the French Open last month. They'll meet in the Wimbledon quarters for the third time in four years.

"I think we definitely have a nice rivalry going on," Williams said. "It's good, I like it."

In the bottom half of the draw, Lindsay Davenport became the first player to reach the semifinals as she swept 19-year-old Karolína Sprem 6-2, 6-2, in 51 minutes.

Davenport, the 1999 champion, reached the semis for the fourth time. Sprem, a Croat who upset former two-time champion Venus Williams in the second round, had 21 unforced errors — 13 more than Davenport.

The fifth-seeded Davenport will face 17-year-old Russian Maria Sharapova, who underlined her



Top-seed Serena Williams, above, ripped a 6-2, 6-1 victory over 16-year-old Tatiana Golovin.

reputation as the biggest new star in the game by beating Ai Sugiyama, 5-7, 7-5, 6-1 to make her first Grand Slam semifinal.

Sugiyama was five points from winning the match, holding a break point for 5-4 in the second set, before Sharapova turned things around in emphatic fashion. From 1-1 in the third set, Sharapova took four of the next five games at love and won 20 of the last 22 points to close out the match.

After Sugiyama's backhand drifted wide on match point, Sharapova threw her arms in the air and blew kisses to the crowd. She finished with 44 winners and nine aces and showed she's not just a baseliner, hitting 10 volley winners and winning 16 points at the net.

Sharapova is the youngest Wimbledon semifinalist since Martina Hingis and Anna Kournikova made it in 1997 at 16.

Hingis beat Kournikova in the semis and won the title that year. Sharapova, a 6-foot blonde with

a modeling contract, has been compared to Kournikova. But while Kournikova has never won a tour singles title, Sharapova has won three, including the Wimbledon warmup tournament in Birmingham, England.

Also advancing to the quarters in the top half was Amelie Mauresmo, who beat Silvia Farina Elia 7-5, 6-3. The fourth-seeded Frenchwoman, who reached the semifinals here in 2002, served eight aces and had 29 winners to beat the Italian in 1 hour, 27 minutes on Court 2.

Mauresmo will next play Paola Suarez, who dented Rita Grande, 4-6, 6-0, 6-2 to reach her first Wimbledon quarterfinal. Suarez lost in the French Open semis last month to Elena Dementieva.

Serena Williams and Capriati have played 15 times, with Williams leading 9-6. Capriati has won the past two, both on clay, including a three-setter in the French Open. At Wimbledon, Capriati won in three sets in the 2001 quarterfinals and Williams prevailed in three sets in the 2003 quarters.

The top-seeded Williams, who hasn't lost more than four games in any of her matches, wasn't happy with her performance Tuesday, but added: "I guess I can't complain too much, huh?"

Golovin, considered one of the most promising young players on the tour, appeared completely out-matched in her first appearance on the biggest stage in the sport.

Williams hit clean winners from the baseline, but was particularly dominant on her serve. She served three aces in three games and finished off the fifth game of the second set with her 126 mph ace down the middle. As she walked to her chair for the changeover, Williams held up her arms in triumph and smiled at her parents in the players' box.

The serve broke her sister Venus' Wimbledon record of 125 mph set in 1998. It fell just short of the fastest ever recorded serve in



Russian Maria Sharapova, above, a 17-year-old with a modeling contract, won 20 of the last 22 points of a 5-7, 7-5, 6-1 victory over Japan's Ai Sugiyama on Tuesday. Sharapova is in her first Grand Slam semifinal.

women's tennis — a 127 mph delivery by Venus, at a tournament in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1998. Serena's previous best was 121 mph.

"I'm feeling like Pete Sampras," she said.

After Williams won the first set in 27 minutes, taking 12 of the last 15 points, Golovin broke in the opening game of the second.

But Williams broke right back and won the next six games — including 15 out of 16 points and 19 out of 21 at one stretch — to close

out the match.

Williams finished with 23 winners and only 13 errors. Golovin had more errors (13) than winners (eight) and served four double faults.

The men's quarterfinals are scheduled for Wednesday, including a matchup between the past two Wimbledon champions, Roger Federer and Lleyton Hewitt. The other pairings: Andy Roddick vs. Seng Shalchen, Tim Henman vs. Mario Ancic, and Sebastian Grosjean vs. Florian Mayer.

Roddick has become men's tennis' new American hero

WIMBLEDON, England — Talk about being under fire.

Here's a tennis story and a human story and a hero story and an Andy Roddick story. All in one. Go figure.

That Roddick is the last American male standing at Wimbledon is notable — and a bit depressing for the several who might still care about American male tennis. This is not a number large enough to need a crossing guard.

Roddick is, and none too soon, the next savior of the game. So says John McEnroe, for one, and if McEnroe says it, that means his mouth was open. All sorts of stuff falls out of Johnny Mac's mouth these days, generally about tennis being in the dumpster since he left.

"Today's players are like Darth Vader compared to me," McEnroe said. "Where is the passion and the feeling?"

A little risk is what tennis needs, a little more edge. You know, like skateboarding, or like NASCAR.

"The drivers are risking their lives and

Bernie Lincicome



they're out there, talking to fans an hour before the race," McEnroe said. "Tennis, knock on wood, is relatively safe."

Yes. Few wrecks are in tennis, so few lives are in constant danger.

And just what the Brat ordered. Here comes Roddick. Risking lives? How about hauling his mistress out onto a balcony in a burning Rome hotel encouraging Dutch tennis player Sjeng Schalken and his wife, Ricki, to jump from the balcony above. From the seventh floor to the sixth floor, Roddick promised to catch them. And he did.

Roddick also helped maybe a dozen others to safety. In the blaze, which claimed the lives of three people.

Fast-forward seven weeks. There will be

Roddick again, this time catching Schalken's serve in the quarterfinals of Wimbledon.

"I think there is a special bond between us," Roddick said. "There is always something there when you share an experience that's pretty traumatic."

Tennis cannot rely on hotel fires before every tournament to find new heroes, of course. Tennis needs — again, according to McEnroe — a real rivalry, as McEnroe had with Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors. This skips the generation that was Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras, which would do, as well. Two Americans, with personality," McEnroe said.

What tennis is stuck with is a bunch of Argentinians and Spanish back-courtiers and Roger Federer, as neutral as he is Swiss. By consensus, Federer is the best player in the world, certainly the best player here, seeded first and the defending champion.

Here is an endorsement from Lindsay Davenport, the blonde, Roddick, an American. "As a tennis fan," Davenport said, "you have to think that Roger Federer is the

most amazing thing to watch. I mean, the way he plays, the way he moves, the way he acts. If you were to mold a perfect tennis player, it would be him. I think he's incredible. I could sit down and watch Federer all day long."

This is all sadly true, that tennis as tennis has become Federer-ized, as it was for an alarming time, Lendl-ized. Roddick has the promise to break it out into the wider world. "He's helped," McEnroe said, "getting out, being on Saturday Night Live and all."

Roddick was also on the Weakest Link, still somehow a fixture here on the BBC. His participation was televised one of the days that rain washed out play.

Roddick blew a question on a barnyard animal that sounds like a letter of the alphabet. Roddick answered "bas," the answer was "ewe." In tennis, this would have been called a let.

"You'd be shocked at the stuff I don't know," Roddick said.

Bernie Lincicome is a columnist for the Rocky Mountain News.

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SPORTS

For glove of the game

Beloved mitts have a special place in baseball

BY LARRY STONE
The Seattle Times

There's just something about the smell of a new mitt (or even better, an old mitt) — "the smell of baseball," as former Seattle Mariners infielder Rafael Bourgeois once said.

There's just something about the look of a mitt, new or old — as aesthetically pleasing, arguably, as any utilitarian device known to humankind. Noted sculptor Claes Oldenburg made a 12-foot-high, 5,800-pound first baseman's glove out of lead and wood and explained to skeptics, "Cezanne painted apples. I make mitts."

The other senses are taken care of, too, from the resounding thwack of a Randy Johnson fastball meeting the leather of his catcher's mitt, to the loving care with which Ichiro faithfully oils his glove every night during the season.

"The baseball glove is the one piece of sports equipment that molds to your body," said Noah Liberman, author of the definitive glove history, "Glove Affairs: The Romance, History and Tradition of the Baseball Glove."

"It fits you, and only you."

Taste is a tough one, but there must be some gustatory appeal to the leather of a baseball glove, at least to some species. Otherwise, why would a large portion of the repair work at Fran Fleet's famous shop in Co-tati, Calif., be the result of dogs having munched the stricken gloves?

"Dogs are truly my best friend," Fleet said cheerfully. "A lot of times when I send back a glove where I've done dog work, I'll put a dog bone in it. They'll work their way around a glove, starting with the knots. And if you're still not home when they're done with the knots, then they'll get the glove. I like to think of the knots as an appetizer, the glove as a main dish."

No one has ever called Nomar Garciaparra a dog, but he can be seen between pitches ritualistically chewing on the extra-long laces of his glove as he stands at shortstop. The brother of Holden Caulfield, in J.D. Salinger's classic, "The Catcher in the Rye," had a different use for his glove to pass the time between pitches: "He had poems written all over the fingers and the pocket and everywhere," Salinger wrote. "In green ink. He wrote them on it so that he'd have something to read when he was in the field and nobody was up to bat."

Most major-league players would agree that there's a certain poetry to their leather.

There is, indeed, a lexicon unique to gloves, exotic terms that can be translated only by those who speak the language of Rawlings and Wilson — otherwise inscrutable phrases like "Trap-eze," "Grip-Tite Pocket" and "Edge-U-Cated Heel."

"They were sort of the code words of childhood, in a way," Liberman said.

Ichiro believes his glove is animated with a spirit, an idea taught to him by his Buddhist father.

"Maybe he's got something," said teammate Rich Aurilia, who has been using the same increasingly ragged glove for going on five years.

"I just throw some stuff on mine, spit on it and throw dirt on it, and usually that does the job."

Woe unto anyone who dares besmirch the lyricism of a major-leaguer's leather by touching the mitt, or, even worse, trying it on. A's shortstop Royce Clayton put it to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "I don't mess with your wife, so you don't touch my glove."

Mariners utility man Willie Bloomquist strongly adheres to the same code.

"I don't mind so much when someone has small hands and puts them in it," he said.

"But when someone's got big old meathooks and crams it in there and stretches out the finger holes, that ticks me off."

Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett used to call his collection of gloves "my babies." Many players assign their mitts a feminine pronoun, as in, "She's a good one."

Some have gone so far as to name their gloves — outfielders Mel Hall and Brett Butler each called their mitt "Lucille." Shortstop Walt Weiss' beaten-up model was "The Creature." Smooth-fielding first baseman George Scott had "Black Beauty," while third baseman Charlie Hayes dubbed his "Slump," because that's what it helped put batters into.

Though major-leaguers typically are entitled two free gloves a year from the company with which they sign an endorsement deal, many find one they like and stick with it. Among the players who used the same piece of leather for most or all their careers were third baseman Aurelio Rodriguez (who painted his black and dubbed it "The Black Hand") and Tim Lincecum, shortstop Shawn Dunston, outfielders Amos Otis and Brady Anderson, and catcher Mike Scioscia.

Pitcher Jim Kaat, who won a record 16 Gold Gloves for fielding excellence, used the same glove for 15 years.

SEE MITTS ON PAGE 25



Young

Sports court says Young should be stripped of medal; Montgomery to contest possible lifetime ban, Page 29



Montgomery



Capriati, S. Williams set to square off again in Wimbledon quarterfinals

Page 30



Phillies' Bell becomes second in family to hit for cycle

Page 26



Sorenstam will try to end 7-year drought in Women's Open

Page 25

NBA could be headed for lockout after 2004-05 season Page 29